





# In today's 12-page sports section: Damon Hill makes a glorious comeback in an anarchic Belgian Grand Prix

+ England v. Sri Lanka Test Match latest + Weekend racing results + Football reports and analysis + Crossword

President's office hatches plan for four top European commissioners and the streamlining of unwieldy bureaucracy

## Santer plans 'super Eurocrats'

Martin Walker in Brussels

**T**HE European Commission is planning to appoint a top layer of super-commissioners in the biggest internal shake-up in its history.

"Europe needs authoritative voices, in foreign affairs and in the decision-making bodies of international finance," a Commission source told the Guardian yesterday, acknowledging that the 15 member states of the European Union would "fight like dogs" for the new top jobs, which will include one person to speak on all foreign policy

matters, and another to run financial affairs.

The plans are being prepared inside the office of the Commission president, Jacques Santer, who wants to see them approved by member states next year in time for the appointment of a new Commission in 2000.

Mr Santer believes that the current system, under which every member state has at least one commissioner and the bigger ones have two, has created a large and unwieldy body which leaves too many commissioners too little to do. But since he sees little prospect of any country giving up its right to appoint a commissioner, he is promoting the

new layer as a rational governing structure.

The new officials would be called vice-presidents, and four or five would join the Commission president in an inner circle. A draft suggests vice-presidents for foreign affairs, financial matters, trade, and competition and the internal market. The importance of farming, which accounts for 40 per cent of the EU budget, would mean that the agriculture commissioner would, in effect, join the "big four".

Each of the vice-presidents would co-ordinate the work of junior commissioners, the reduced status of whom would be reflected by a serious reduction in their press office staff.

Because large countries such as Germany, France, Britain and Italy would use all their muscle to secure one of the top jobs, Mr Santer is also considering a gentlemen's agreement under which the president would always come from a small country such as his own, Luxembourg.

The plan, which might provoke protest from member states which feel it smacks of federal government and gives the Commission too much power, is a clear indication that Mr Santer plans a second presidential term.

"President Santer will not

campaign for a second term, but he will not turn it down if the job is offered by the member states," said a Commission source close to Mr Santer, who is evidently planning to take full advantage of new presidential powers, granted under the Amsterdam treaty, to distribute portfolios.

Advocates of the new vice-president system claim it has three main advantages. It could, they say, provide a political authority to speak and act for the euro.

While Wim Duisenberg, the head of the new European central bank, can liaise with his United States equivalent, the chairman of the Federal

Reserve Board, on interest rates and monetary supply, there is no European equivalent to the US treasury secretary. Such a figure would be needed in international meetings of groups such as the IMF and G7, and to join the US treasury secretary in talking political decisions on issues such as tackling the current storm in world markets.

A single foreign affairs commissioner would end the current confusion under which various commissioners handle different parts of the world. The EU has already agreed to appoint at this year's Vienna summit a "high authority" to develop the

Common Foreign and Security Policy required by the Amsterdam treaty. A new super-commissioner is seen as the logical accompaniment.

The plan would also tackle the problem of an even larger group of 27 commissioners which would have arisen after the accession of Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Cyprus and Poland.

"We all know there has to be a fundamental overhaul of the Commission system," the senior source said. "If the member states reject this plan, the burden will then be on them to come up with their own."

Newley, 1960s singing heartthrob, joins cast of EastEnders

Nicola Vassalli

**S**IXTIES icon Anthony Newley is making an unexpected return from celebrity oblivion after landing a lead role in EastEnders.

The singer, song-writer and actor, a heartthrob in his heyday, is to star as Barbara Windsor's new beau in the BBC TV soap opera.

Newley, 66, who has just finished filming his first episode, will make his debut in six weeks time.

An EastEnders spokeswoman said: "It's a great coup for us."

"He was a massive star in the States and his new character will definitely get people talking."

"He finished recording last week and he was a big hit on the set."

Newley plays yet another of Walford's second-hand car salesmen who gets involved in a shady business deal with Roy Evans. He starts a romance with Queen Vic landlady Peggy Mitchell which develops into a classic EastEnders love triangle, with Frank Butcher, alias Mike Reid.

"We don't really know how the audience will take to Anthony's new character," said the EastEnders spokeswoman. "And his role may be short lived if he's a big hit, however, he could become one of our regular faces."

Newley first found fame at 16 when he starred as the Artful Dodger in David Lean's *Oliver Twist*. He later became one of America's biggest solo entertainers.

At the height of his fame he was so feared that Mafia bosses who ruled Las Vegas insisted on buying him a chocolate-brown Jaguar.

A spokesman for Newley, who was born in Hockney, east London, said he was thrilled at landing the job.

## Deadlock in Russia as Yeltsin backtracks

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Yabloko movement, which has about a tenth of the Duma's seats, rubbished the accord. "As soon as we vote for Chernomyrdin, this piece of paper will be thrown in the bin," he said.

The Duma had been due to vote on Mr Chernomyrdin's candidacy today, but this now seems unlikely.

Earlier, a cheerful Mr Chernomyrdin said he and fellow negotiators had "virtually won advance approval" of the accord. "The route is hanging by a thin thread," he said. "Decisions must be made... The country cannot function without a government."

A hint of one possible solution was given by the expected arrival in Moscow of Argentina's former economic minister Domingo Cavallo at the invitation of the deputy prime minister, Boris Fyodorov. Mr Cavallo was responsible for curbing hyper-inflation in Argentina by introducing a currency board.

The deadlock could cause considerable embarrassment for US president Bill Clinton, who arrives tomorrow for a three-day visit. No matter whom he meets among the leadership, he will be distracting them from the task of hammering out a compromise — or, even more uncomfortably, will be drawn into the horse-trading himself.

It is hard to see what grounds there are for progress in talks when Mr Chernomyrdin is bent on assuring the West, and principally the IMF, that Russia will stick to the market reform path, while Mr Zyuganov is demanding that the IMF's recommendations be watered down.

## Low profile at Balmoral for Diana anniversary

Palace statement thanks public for their kindness as Brown's TV appearance raises eyebrows

Gerard Soetan and Barry Neild

**I**N A convoy of limousines and an incongruous people carrier, the royal family yesterday arrived at Crathie Kirk. A comparatively small number of people stood watching respectfully at the roadside.

Bigger crowds to mark the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, are expected today.

Ten minutes before the royal family's arrival, Tony Blair and his wife Cherie, who are spending the weekend with the royals at Balmoral, drove up to the kirk. It is understood that Mr Blair was anxious his presence did not detract from the royal family's grief.

There was no mention of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in the service at Crathie. The royal chaplain, the Rev Robert Sloan, and the Rev Alan Main, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, chose rather to concentrate their words on the theme of her death.

Buckingham Palace, however, later took the unusual step of issuing a statement thanking the public for their kindness in the year following the death of the late

princess. "The Queen and the royal family, particularly the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry, would like to thank people for their messages and kind gestures of support at this sad time and for sharing their remembrance of the Princess of Wales," it said.

On the day that congregations around the world were asked to remember the princess, Mr Sloan made only the vaguest of reference to her death. "Remember all who grieve today that they may be given strength and courage," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Church of Scotland said later that Mr Sloan had omitted Diana's name purposely. "The names of the dead are never mentioned in the Church of Scotland, except at special services."

"We believe they are with God and we could wish no better for them."

Sunday mornings at Balmoral have a long tradition for the royals and yesterday they deviated little from their usual routine.

The Queen, dressed in a pale blue knee-length coat, was flanked by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother on her left, and by Prince Harry, Charles and William on her right, as she



An Englishwoman lays flowers yesterday at the makeshift monument to Princess Diana near where she died in Paris

PHOTOGRAPH: LIONEL CHIRONNEAU

took her place in the front pew at Crathie.

The rest of the royal family took their seats in the pews behind. Outside, the crowds who had come to offer their support to Princes William and Harry were disappointed not to have caught a glimpse of them.

"It was impossible to see them through the dark windows of the cars. They will be bearing up I am sure, but God knows this is a terrible week-end for them," said Dorothy

Graham from Aberdeen.

While the service ended and the congregation silently made its way outside, the few hundred who had waited by the road vowed that they would return today.

But at the tree-lined gates of Balmoral Castle, only three bouquets were laid in memoriam. "People will lay more on the date of the anniversary. That's why we are here after all — to remember the sad event of Diana's death. The hysteria has died down

this is respect," said Margaret Jordan, a fellow committee member, that Diana was widely revered "because she had shone a torch into areas of life that a lot of people had been happy to forget."

Her legacy is that she has made not only Britain a better place but she's made hundreds of thousands of people in Britain feel more confident about what they can do to make Britain a better place.

"Therefore it's not something that is forgotten in a month or a year. It is something that lives with all of us for as long as we live."

A Downing Street spokesman said Mr Blair was fully aware of Mr Brown's involvement with the pre-recorded programme.

Elsewhere, Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, was also paying public tributes, this time to the members of a Northamptonshire Cricket Club for their support "over the past turbulent year."

## Sign off with the clapped out and ridiculous

### Review

Garth Cartwright

Reading Festival

**W**HEN Reading rolls around, it spells the end of the festival season. Many — including the promoters, the Mean Fiddler — must be breathing a sigh of relief. With Glastonbury a three-day nightmare, Phoenix collapsing before it began and newcomer Universe cancelled due to lack of interest, 1998 will go down as the year rock festivals fell out of favour.

Only Womad and Megadog's Beach Festival could be

counted as successes, both offering more intimate, left-field attractions. Reading, always home to rock monsters, boasts no atmosphere and a relentless diet of rock. Situated in a damp field encompassing Ferris wheels, bungee-jumping, junk-food stands and their accumulating debris, it is not for the faint-hearted. Yet Britain's oldest rock festival effortlessly serves up more than a hundred acts in its three days.

This year punters got lucky with the addition of the Prodigy and New Order, both originally booked for Phoenix. Beefing up the bill helped the festival to sell out, attracting 55,000 people across a sunny, relaxed weekend.

Reading is best enjoyed by

avoiding the main stage while feasting on the lesser-known bands who have spent the summer drifting around the European festival circuit.

This year the American contingent offered Grandaddy's drill country rock lyricism, Soul Coughing's beatnik funk, Rancid's boisterous ska-punk and Royal Trux's leathery swagger. Mercury Awards nominee Asian Dub Foundation and Gones won their festival spurs with inspired performances, while Brixton's Alabama 3's engaging take on chemical country raised the roof of the Dr Martens tent.

Reading's main-stage headliners, by contrast, were rarely inspired. Friday night found cock-rock gods Page & Plant mimicking their early

seventies glory. The epic qualities of Led Zeppelin are long gone, with vocalist Robert Plant — still wearing his hair bleached and permed — all mining camp, while Jimmy Page's guitar workouts lacked both finesse and crunch.

Dread the thought of what the Prodigy will resemble when they reach their fifties. With their huge sound, dearth of subtlety and beastial behaviour, they are the logical heirs to Led Zeppelin. Band mascot Keith Flint, dressed in a fetching tunic, is already as ridiculous as Plant.

"A Beastie Boy rang me last night and asked us not to play this song," Prodigy MC Maxim Reality announced. "But we do what we fuckin' want." Watching tens of thou-

sands of people whoop, leap around and chant "Turn my pitch up, smack my bitch up", is a sobering spectacle.

Rock 'n' roll has always prided itself on unbridled stupidity, and the Prodigy's energetic, empty performance was a triumph of ignorance.

Following them were the Beastie Boys. Though well into their thirties, the Beasties remain eternal adolescents musically. Their mess of rapping, thrashing and instrumental jams may be low on substance, but as stadium spectacle with heart it lifted Reading's spirits. A fitting way to close Saturday night and prepare for the near-religious fervour awaiting New Order's return on Sunday.



Keith Flint on stage with the Prodigy: 'Already as ridiculous as Robert Plant'

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW STUART

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Wild costumes, wild nights of Manumission frenzy... but locals say the behaviour is animal and the consul is sick of sorting out the problems of young Britons

## Tourist louts force consul to quit

David Sharrock

IT HAS all been too much for our man in Ibiza. A better class of tourist would have saved the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the necessity of finding a new vice-consul, but the locals all agree: the British are the pits.

Michael Birkett quits today, leaving behind a scummy case-load of bawling, drug-dealing, accidental death and loutish exhibitionism by English visitors, male and female alike, which has made the resort of San Antonio a Balsearic benchmark of all that is bad about Spanish tourism.

Mr Birkett, aged 51, is not leaving the island — whose Bohemian past, so elegantly recreated in novels by the likes of John Galsworthy, made it a magnet for the 1930s beautiful people — but he is unlikely to spend any more time in San Antonio, a concrete high-rise hell which is the focus of the British invasion.

With the success of British dance culture imports to the island such as Manumission, a frenetic anything-goes nightclub featuring live sex acts — Ibiza has been turned into the rave capital of Europe.

The announcement of the departure of Mr Birkett coincided with an article in the island's newspaper, *El Diario de Ibiza*, which described the young British tourists as "animals".

Yesterday he said: "Basically, I am sick of the behaviour of some of the young British tourists who come here, and of clearing up the mess they cause." Their drunken antics were ruining Britain's reputation in Europe.

Mr Birkett, who previously worked as an accountant at the British embassy in Madrid, has been in Ibiza for 18 months, where his work has included dealing with crime, drug overdoses and traffic accidents.



**'I am sick of the behaviour of some of the British tourists and of clearing up the mess they cause'**

Michael Birkett (left), retiring vice-consul

"Not all British tourists behave badly," he said. "There are a lot of families who come here and just enjoy themselves. But there are problems with the younger tourists."

Local journalist Cristina Amanda Tur said the behaviour of British tourists in San Antonio made life there intolerable. "They sell drugs, get drunk, start fights. It never stops. English tourism is the worst. The police have had to be reinforced to cope with the problem."

"The trouble is concentrated in an area of bars and clubs known as the West End. Only young British tourists go there and it's always the same old story of fighting." She blamed tour operators, claiming Club 18-30 clients were particularly at fault.

"The tourist authorities are trying to do something about it, but basically it's down to the tour operators. The best advice to all the other tourists who come here — and that includes British as well as Germans and French — is to avoid that area."

Ms Tur rejected reports in one newspaper that Mr Birkett had resigned because he was tired of dealing with some 50 accident and drug-related deaths a year. "There's nothing like that number, but deaths do occur

from time to time. Three weeks ago a Scot drowned in the harbour after falling in drunk, and we get cases of others falling off hotel balconies for the same reason."

A Foreign Office spokeswoman confirmed that Mr Birkett resigned from the post of vice-consul three weeks ago, with effect from today, and that the vacancy has already been filled. It is a full-time salaried job and candidates are recruited locally.

"Quite a lot of the job will involve dealing with tourists who get into trouble," the spokeswoman said.

A spokesman for Club 18-30 said: "There are a lot of other influences at work in Ibiza, who have pushed this party atmosphere image, based around San Antonio which has got its reputation as the dance capital of Europe."

"Our view is that San Antonio is little different to a number of holiday resort destinations around the world with a vibrant youth culture. A lot of things get exaggerated and sensationalised."

Around 30,000 to 40,000 people travel to Ibiza with Club 18-30 each year. The spokeswoman said that Club 18-30 received very few complaints about its holiday-makers' behaviour and it had a good relationship with local people.



Wild times... but the price for some can be death, injuries, brawling and drug overdoses

## Sunburn and no knickers

WHAT *El Diario de Ibiza* had to say:

YOUNG ladies — good-looking platinum blondes for the most part — shout in English the merits of the nightclub or bar which they are about to enter. They pay them to hand out publicity material.

By not displaying a genuine British appearance — in other words, blonde or red hair, pale and sunburnt — the visitor risks being refused entrance. Inability to speak the language of Shakespeare is dangerous for those seeking a drink — in most bars making yourself understood in Spanish is impossible.

Six girls decide to cool themselves down without the help of air conditioning by opting to drop their knickers and lift their skirts, for the pleasure of those present. "This is nothing," says the owner of one of the most important bars in the area. "I've even seen men displaying their penises in the street."

This bar owner never ceases to be horrified by the island couldn't help but cover their faces. "Yuk, they are animals," said one. Many locals feel the same way. But very few dare to question the presence of the hooligans in the Bay of Formentor.

two weeks ago. The hooligans then began to masturbate while grunting unintelligibly. It might not have been quite so shocking if it had not been seen by a number of children. Recovering from the shock, they walked quickly on, while the stars of the show continued to shout all sorts of blasphemy.

Some Catalan tourists who recently arrived in the island couldn't help but cover their faces. "Yuk, they are animals," said one. Many locals feel the same way. But very few dare to question the presence of the hooligans in the Bay of Formentor.

## Sissons sneers at BBC 'beauty contest' news policy

Key presenter says corporation is undermining the credibility of its television coverage

Kamran Ahmed  
Media Editor

THE BBC was facing fresh embarrassment last night when one of its most senior news presenters attacked managers for undermining television news coverage.

In a strongly worded attack, Peter Sissons, who presents the BBC's flagship Nine O'Clock News, said the corporation was eroding the credibility of its news by holding a "beauty contest" to find more viewer-friendly faces.

"I feel that after what's happened in the last few weeks, I have to do something to redress the professional damage being done," Mr Sissons said in an interview with Media Guardian.

"We are part of the BBC's assets. But its managers have been undermining our stature by giving the impression

to viewers that we're dispensable. People don't just turn to the BBC, they turn to its presenters. We give the BBC credibility."

It is the first time that Mr Sissons, with more than 30 years' experience, has spoken with such frankness about the state of BBC news.

His attack comes a month after another BBC presenter, Anna Ford, criticised BBC managers for being spineless.

Mr Sissons, aged 58, was responding to a series of leaks about a BBC "love list" of presenters who have been ranked according to what viewers think of them.

The list is part of the huge BBC news review which managers will use to overhaul the Six O'Clock and Nine O'Clock bulletins. Lunchtime and Breakfast News are also being reviewed as the corporation struggles to give a fresher feel to its coverage.

Ms Ford, Justin Webb and Edward Stourton are thought



**'If the BBC seems to lack confidence in its presenters, why should the public believe in them?'**

Peter Sissons (left)

to be at risk after viewers described some presenters as "too snooty".

"By refusing to make any convincing public defence of its TV presenting team [the BBC] has practically invited the public to conclude that it has no confidence in them," Mr Sissons said.

"Professionally that is very damaging for me and other colleagues."

"If the BBC appears to lack confidence in its presenters,

why should the public believe in them?"

He said the review, under the direction of Tony Hall, the chief executive of BBC News, was too reliant on focus groups.

"It's particularly puzzling why they set so much store in focus groups, rather than the judgment of their own people," he said.

"Has the BBC ever made a great programme in response to focus groups?"



Anna Ford: spoke of 'spineless' managers

Mr Hall, speaking for the first time about the review which has taken over a year, gave a detailed response to Mr Sissons' attack.

"We've got the best presenters in the business and I can understand that the review of our programmes is unsettling for them," Mr Hall said.

"But we have to get the right presenters in the right places across 12 separate networks."

"It is not surprising that

that will take time.

"What is certain, though, is that audiences want presenters with real journalistic fire power and credibility and that's what the BBC will deliver."

Despite reports that the review will be completed next month, it now appears that it will be delayed for a further period of time.

Mr Sissons is the latest in a string of BBC news and current affairs figures who have attacked the corporation's management.

The former Delhi correspondent, Mark Tully, resigned in 1994, having described the BBC as a "Boris Yeltsin regime run on fear and sycophancy."

In 1994, John Tusa, former managing director of the World Service and Newsnight anchor, attacked the rise of management consultants, jargon and the relentless quest for efficiency under John Birt's regime.

Veteran drama producer Kenneth Trodd, who worked closely with Dennis Potter, left after his contract was not renewed following his calling the BBC's drama department "a mess".

## Phone taps led police to road rage suspect

Duncan Campbell  
and Nick Hopkins

KENNETH Noye, Britain's most wanted man and chief suspect in the road rage murder of Stephen Cameron, was traced to Spain by sophisticated phone-tapping techniques, it emerged yesterday.

Detectives began to close in on Mr Noye, who was arrested on Friday, when he started making calls to former business associates from his hide-out in Vejer, Cadiz, a busy port in south-west Spain.

It is believed the police bugged several of his friends when they received independent tips that Mr Noye was alive and living somewhere on the coast. There had previously been speculation that he had been murdered.

According to reports, Mr Noye, aged 32, was sighted by six different witnesses. Police were able to pinpoint his whereabouts by tracing his calls to the UK.

In early July, Detective Superintendent Nick Biddis, who is leading the murder hunt, was confident enough to send a team of officers to identify Mr Noye and put him under surveillance. One report from Spain yesterday said Mr Noye was windsurfing when officers finally caught up with him. His house was bugged, his car registration logged and every visitor photographed.

The operation is understood to have been underpinned by the Government's spy communication HQ at Cheltenham, and MI5.

Last night Kent police were refusing to say anything about the operation, or speculate on how quickly Mr Noye could be extradited. Although the arrest is a coup for the investigators, the diplomatic process promises to be long and arduous.

Mr Noye is unlikely to volunteer to return to the UK for questioning over the death of 31-year-old Cameron, who was stabbed in May 1996 after remonstrating with the

driver of a Land Rover Discovery on a slip road of the M25 at Swanley. Cameron was killed in front of his fiancée, Danielle Cable.

The British government has 40 days to submit an extradition request to the Spanish authorities through the Crown Prosecution Service.

It is up to the CPS to convince a Spanish court that it has enough evidence to warrant Mr Noye's return to face trial in Britain.

Once that extradition request has been lodged it is likely to be bitterly resisted by Mr Noye, and the legal battle in the Madrid courts could take months.

By the time he was named as the prime suspect in the inquiry in the Police Gazette on September 9, Mr Noye had fled the country.

There have been numerous sightings of him since and a report that he was in Russia. Police are unsure how he came to be in Cadiz.

One theory is that he went to northern Cyprus, where he has a home, and then on to mainland Spain. According to Spain's national news agency EFE, Mr Noye has spent most of the last two years living in a luxury apartment near Gibraltar in the outskirts of Tarifa, a windsurfing resort on the Atlantic coast.

If he is extradited, Mr Noye's lawyers are likely to argue that he cannot receive a fair trial due to the publicity surrounding the case.

Mr Noye believes he has been a marked man since he was acquitted in 1985 of killing a police officer whom he found in the grounds of his home in Kent.

He told a trial that he thought the officer, Detective Constable John Fordham, was about to attack him.

DC Fordham, who was wearing a balaclava, was spying on Mr Noye as part of a surveillance operation.

After he was cleared, Mr Noye's wife, Brenda, who still lives in Kent, said to him: "They're going to get you Ken, aren't they? If they don't get you here, they're going to get you somewhere else."

## Divine victory for Irish comic

Dan Gleister  
Arts Correspondent

TOMMY Tiernan, the manic depressive Father Kevin in the sitcom *Father Ted*, won this year's Perrier prize at the Edinburgh festival to confirm the dominance of Irish comedians. He took the prize with his first full-length Edinburgh show, the acclaimed *UN-divine* comedy.

After being presented with the award by previous Perrier winner Jenny Eclair, Tiernan, who is 39 and won the So You Think You're Funny talent contest two years ago, said he was going to use the £5,000 prize money to buy a car, "probably a second-hand Mitsubishi".

*UN-divine* comedy is a series of stories about Tiernan's childhood and religion. The Guardian warned that it was "not for the narrow-minded".

His show has been likened to Billy Connolly, a comparison Tiernan does not offend the comic. "I don't do jokes, I do long stories," he said. "There are parts in the show when I'm not afraid to be serious."

Derek Jacobi and Daniel Craig shared the Edinburgh International Film Festival best actor prize for their performances in John Maybury's film about the painter Francis Bacon, *Love Is The Devil*. Maybury's film also picked up the Michael Powell Award for best new British feature. The audience award produced

an upset with the British film *Get Real*, directed by Simon Shore, beating the favourite *Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels*. The best director award went to Todd Haynes for *Velvet Goldmine*, while there was a special mention for Gaspar Noé for his first feature, *Seul Contre Tous*.

An Australian Studio production, *Hum Drum*, directed by Peter Peake, won the animation section, while two films shared the best short film category, Matt Hulsey's *Wee Three* and Jamie Thorne's *Just Want To Kiss You*. The documentary section was won by Ron Havilio's *Fragments*, a six-hour study of Jerusalem through one family's story.



Tommy Tiernan... will use £5,000 prize money for car

## Diner shot in restaurant after row over seat claimed by both

Nicole Venish

AMAN was recovering in a hospital yesterday after being shot in the groin by a fellow diner who claimed he had taken his seat in the restaurant.

The man, aged 21 and identified only as Darren, was taken to Homerton Hospital in east London, where a spokeswoman said: "He has had surgery and he will be staying with us for some time. He is in a stable condition."

The incident, at Junior's Caribbean restaurant in Stoke Newington, north London, happened during Saturday evening.

Darren was with a family

party when the argument broke out with another diner. The diner left the restaurant but soon returned with his face partially covered. He walked up to Darren and shot him twice in the lower body with a revolver.

Junior Murdock, owner of the restaurant, said: "Darren had come in with his mum, aunt and cousin. I was in the kitchen when I heard two pops. Because the restaurant is open plan, I could see what was happening. I saw Darren take a hit and then I saw this young lad running away."

The gunman was described as black, slim and in his early twenties, with distinctive burn-like marks on his forehead.



# Blair cuts union links with individual help

Michael White  
Political Editor

**T**ONY Blair has succeeded spectacularly in his drive to end Labour's historic dependency on the trade union chequebook — but at the price of increased debt and dependency on the whim of wealthy individuals, the party's annual report revealed yesterday.

The high-gloss, reader-friendly report, which will be presented to next month's new-look Labour conference, reveals that Mr Blair entered 10 Downing Street on the back of a record £4.5 million overdraft after spending £13.7 million on the election in 1997 and £26 million over three years — but less than the embattled Conservative Party.

Labour says its debt will be paid off this year, another contrast with the Conservatives, who were £19 million in debt until 1996. As for the unions, they once paid 90 per cent of Labour's bills, a share now down to 30 per cent.

"Membership and small donations" raised 40 per cent, donations of £1,000-plus brought in 20 per cent and the related "events and sponsorship" a further 10 per cent.

These figures are the fruit of fund-raising made more professional under the guidance of Lord Levy, the party's glamorous £500-a-plate dinners, and £1 million cheques from the likes of Formula One's Bernie Ecclestone, which appears as "donation returned" in the accounts.

A predictable welter of publicity greeted the report's list of major donors: those companies and individuals who gave at least £5,000 in money or sponsorship in 1997.

Promptly dubbed the New Labour Establishment, the list includes the actor Jeremy Irons, his wife Sinead Cusack, and pop stars Mick Hucknall and Neil Tennant, as well as heavy-hitting business leaders such as Gerry Robinson, head of the Granada Group, David Sainsbury, the mega-grocer.

Twenty-eight out of 97 names, according to the Sunday Times, have ended up with some form of government patronage: a committee chairmanship, a ministry job, membership of the Lords or all three. So the Conservatives were quick to denounce what their duty spokesman,



Labour donors, clockwise, from top left: Lisa Stansfield, Melvyn Bragg, Mick Hucknall and Alex Ferguson

Gary Streeter, saw as proof of the "cronyism at the heart of the Government".

The list "reads like the guest list for a Downing Street drinks party", the MP said in a ritual denunciation of "top Labour luvvies" Eddie Izzard, Melvyn Bragg, Ben Elton and others. Labour replied that it would "take no lectures" on the subject. In practice Labour is still ahead of the game in cleaning up its unsatisfactory aspects of its fund-raising in the era of financial transparency.

Ahead of their October conference, the Tories are finally

poised to match Labour's naming of £5,000-plus donors (neither party will say if the gift is £5,001 or £1 million), albeit only for the period since William Hague took over from John Major.

That leaves a mystery over the fund-raising scandals of the late Thatcher-Major years, when ever-increasing desperation and a decline in small gifts and corporate cheques pushed Tory fundraisers in the direction of foreign donors.

Most chose to remain anonymous, except in spectacular cases like Asil Nadir, the fugi-

tive tycoon whose £400,000 cheque did not save him from the Serious Fraud Office.

Labour's annual report, which ranges confidently over the Government's achievements and goals, warns that it will be "enormously difficult" to cover campaign costs if they keep rising.

The party's outgoing general secretary, Tom Sawyer, has proposed a £15 million general election spending cap to the inquiry into party funding by the Neil Committee. It will be hard to enforce, officials admit. In addition to

winning coming campaigns, the report also stresses the need to finance modernisation of the party's computer systems, as key weapon in 1997.

"In addition, it should be our objective to refinance the party. We are the best-organised political fighting force in Europe and our success and room for manoeuvre should not be constrained by lack of funds," it says.

William Hague, who has started improving internal Tory Party communications, will study the report for ideas to borrow.

## Parents warned off coaching for tests

John Carvel  
Education Editor

**P**ARENTS of five-year-olds starting school this term should not try to coach them to do well in the new "baseline" assessments of their performance on arrival, the Government will warn this week.

The schools minister Charles Clarke is introducing a £10 million screening programme to establish children's attainment levels at the start of formal primary education.

He wants teachers to use the results as a diagnostic tool to pitch lessons at the right level, giving appropriate individual help to the most and least able.

The information will also form the basis for measuring schools' performance. By comparing baseline scores with the subsequent results of the same pupils in tests at seven and 11, it will be possible to calculate value added by the school, giving a fairer indication of achievement than the current crude league tables.

The baseline assessments will be carried out by pri-

mary teachers in the next seven weeks. Schemes may vary, but the most common system will score pupils on a scale of one to four according to their competence in eight types of early learning: letter knowledge, reading for meaning and enjoyment, awareness of sounds, writing, speaking and listening, numbers, using mathematical language, and personal and social development.

Teachers are being told that five-year-olds should not even think they are being tested

social development. That would give a maximum score of 32 for the most able and well-adjusted.

But Mr Clarke is concerned that parents might think they could get their children off to a good start by last-minute cramming to improve their baseline scores. "It would be wrong if children were

coached. That would not help teachers identify their strengths and weaknesses," said a senior DfEE source.

The assessments are expected to take about 20 minutes, but teachers are being told that the five-year-olds should not think they are being tested. "Many children will not even realise they have been put through their paces," the source said.

Tasks will include: holding a book the right way up and turning the pages one by one while talking about what happens on each page; recognising at least two words in a book by pointing to them and saying them aloud; reciting a nursery rhyme; recognising letter shapes; and recounting experiences.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, denied a report that he wanted parents to sign contracts to ensure that their children went to bed on time.

Home-school agreements being introduced next year would cover attendance and discipline, but the Government has ruled out intervention in bedtimes or sleep patterns. We are not interested in creating a nanny state," a spokesman said.

## Taxing talk on cannabis

First global conference to address problems of legalised drug

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

**I**f cannabis was legal, would it be taxed? How would it be taxed? What restrictions would there be on advertising it? And how would its use be regulated?

These questions are to be addressed in the first international conference on how cannabis should be regulated if it were legalised or decriminalised.

Scientists, doctors and lawyers from Europe, Australia and North America are gathering in London for the Cannabis Conference, organised by the University of London, Amsterdam, Toronto and California, including experts in jurisprudence.

will address the challenge of cannabis control and seek practical alternatives as cannabis prohibition continues.

The organisers say the conference marks a dramatic shift in the debate, from discussions of whether cannabis should be legalised to how it could be regulated after decriminalisation. Supporters of changes in the law argue that not only would legal cannabis cut crime and be a money-earner for governments, but it would also allow health risks to be monitored.

Among speakers at the conference at Regent's College will be academics from the universities of Krakow, Amsterdam, Toronto and California, including experts in jurisprudence.

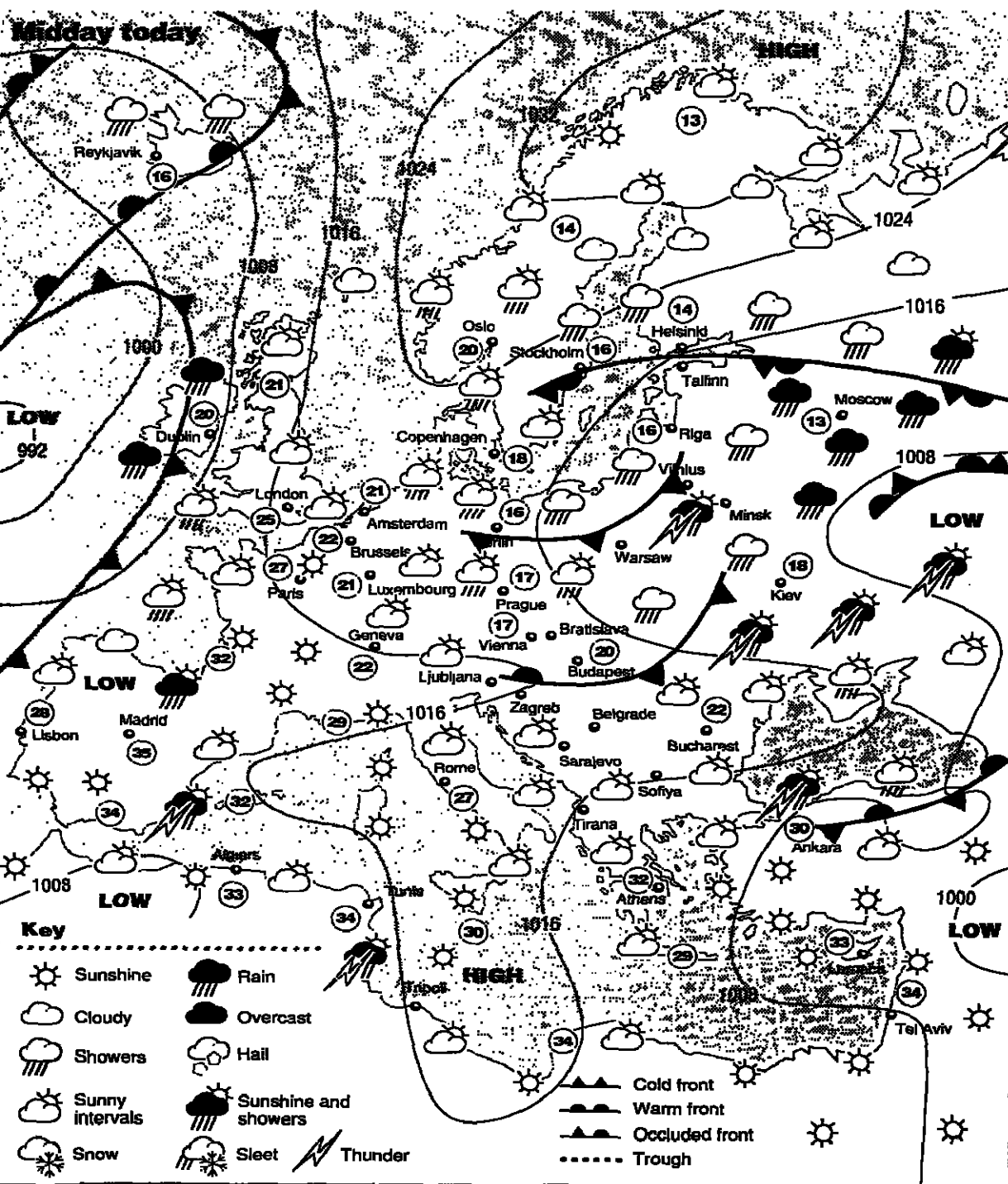
Lindesmith Centre, a New York-based drug policy research institute funded by the financier George Soros.

"Most prominent scientists, medical professionals and policy experts agree that alternatives to cannabis prohibition need to be developed to both prevent further harm and protect individual civil liberties," said Mike Goodman, director of Release.

"Since opinion polls from around the world show growing support for decriminalisation, the purpose of this conference is to determine the best ways to regulate the distribution of cannabis."

Lindesmith Centre director, Ethan Nadelmann, said: "As support for cannabis reform grows, more policy options throughout the world are being faced with the challenge of regulating both the use and the distribution of cannabis. This conference

### The weather in Europe



### European outlook

**Scandinavia:** A dry day in many areas with spells of sunshine almost everywhere. However, there will be a few showers scattered across southern regions of Norway and Denmark, with steady rain for a while over southern Finland. Highs from 13C in the north to 20C at the warmest in Oslo.

**Low Countries, Germany, Austria, Switzerland:** Dry in most places with spells of sunshine. There will, however, be a few showers scattered across southern Germany, mostly in the east. Maximum temperatures will range between 19 and 22C.

**France:** A mostly dry day with plenty of sunshine. However, clouds will build up in the north-west with showers possibly breaking out across Brittany later as the wind increases. A thunder shower is possible around the Massif Central in the evening. Highs from 23C at the coast in Brittany to 29C in southern Languedoc.

**Spain and Portugal:** Hot and sunny in most areas, although northern coasts of Spain will be cooler and rather cloudy for a while. Thunder showers may break out over the northern Spanish mountains and locally in some eastern areas this evening. Highs ranging from 29C in Galicia to 35C in Madrid.

**Italy:** Staying dry with long sunny spells. Highs generally ranging from 25-29C, coolest in the north and around the coasts. However, on Sicily and Sardinia the temperature may touch 31C.

**Greece:** Dry everywhere with some fairly lengthy sunny spells but it will become breezy through the Aegean. Hot inland with highs of 30 to 32C but 27-29C on the coasts and islands.

### Around the world

Yesterday's highlights reports

Algeria	35 27 F	London	21 10 F
Amman	35 27 F	Los Angeles	28 22 F
Amsterdam	18 11 F	Madrid	25 19 F
Athens	32 25 F	Moscow	28 19 Sh
Auckland	13 15 S	Mumbai	32 24 F
Bahia	25 19 S	Nairobi	25 19 S
Bangkok	32 25 F	Osaka	25 19 S
Barcelona	25 19 S	Paris	18 11 F
Bombay	32 25 F	Prague	18 11 F
Buenos Aires	22 14 Sh	Rangoon	22 14 Sh
Cairo	22 14 Sh	Rome	18 11 F
Cape Town	18 11 F	Sao Paulo	22 14 Sh
Colombo	22 14 Sh	Seoul	18 11 F
Copenhagen	18 11 F	Singapore	30 20 S
Dublin	18 11 F	Stockholm	18 11 F
Geneva	18 11 F	Taipei	22 14 Sh
Helsinki	18 11 F	Tokyo	22 14 Sh
London	21 10 F	Ulaanbaatar	18 11 F
Luxembourg	18 11 F	Warsaw	18 11 F
Madrid	25 19 F	Wellington	18 11 F
Moscow	28 19 Sh	Yokohama	22 14 Sh
Mumbai	32 24 F		
Nairobi	25 19 S		
Osaka	25 19 S		
Paris	18 11 F		
Prague	18 11 F		
Rangoon	22 14 Sh		
Rome	18 11 F		
Sao Paulo	22 14 Sh		
Seoul	18 11 F		
Singapore	30 20 S		
Stockholm	18 11 F		
Taipei	22 14 Sh		
Tokyo	22 14 Sh		
Ulaanbaatar	18 11 F		
Warsaw	18 11 F		
Wellington	18 11 F		
Yokohama	22 14 Sh		

### Television and radio

#### BBC 1

8.00am News; Regional News and Weather; 8.30am Breakfast; 9.00am The News; 9.30am The Nine O'Clock News; 10.00am The News; 10.30am The Nine O'Clock News; 11.00am The News; 11.30am The Nine O'Clock News; 12.00pm The News; 12.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 1.00pm The News; 1.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 2.00pm The News; 2.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 3.00pm The News; 3.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 4.00pm The News; 4.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 5.00pm The News; 5.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 6.00pm The News; 6.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 7.00pm The News; 7.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 8.00pm The News; 8.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 9.00pm The News; 9.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 10.00pm The News; 10.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 11.00pm The News; 11.30pm The Nine O'Clock News; 12.00am The News; 12.30am The Nine O'Clock News; 1.00am The News; 1.30am The Nine O'Clock News; 2.00am The News; 2.30am The Nine O'Clock News; 3.00am The News; 3.30am The Nine O'Clock News; 4.00am The News; 4.30am The Nine O'Clock News; 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# The graveyard of PanAm 103



The cockpit of PanAm 103 lying against one of the Boeing 747's giant engines in a Lincolnshire scrapyard. Nearby is part of a tail fin. Under Scottish law the breaker's yard owner is not allowed to dispose of the wreckage until the case closes

## Wreckage of Lockerbie jet lies in Lincolnshire scrapyard

Rory Carroll

**A**T THE end of a Lincolnshire country lane marked "private", weeds coil around 350 tonnes of white and blue metal strewn over a field which has become the graveyard of PanAm Flight 103, bombed out of the sky over Lockerbie.

Moss covers the aircraft's cockpit, which is lying on its side among the debris. Propped against one of the Boeing 747's giant engines. Nearby is part of a tail-fin. PanAm's livery is fading, but

Investigators spent weeks gathering 350 tonnes of debris within an 80-mile radius

its blue globe logo remains visible.

Under Scottish law the breaker's yard owner is not allowed to dispose of the wreckage until the case closes. Last week Libya indicated that it may hand over two men suspected of planting the bomb, which blew up over the Scottish town of Lockerbie at 7.02pm on December 21, 1988, killing all 259 passengers and crew, as well as 11 people on the ground. Defence and prosecution teams may need to view the wreckage of the airliner as evidence.

It was transported to the yard from an army base at Longtown near Carlisle by a fleet of eight trucks in 1989.

The destination was not publicised to prevent sightseers gathering.

Freight containers ring the field, which is around 1,000 square feet. In some places the debris is piled 10 feet high. Bushes and trees sprout between the pieces of silver aluminium wreckage.

The cockpit's interior is said to be largely intact, with instrument panels, dials and the pilot's joystick all in place. Rain and time have discoloured the exterior.

The forward compartment, where the bomb exploded, has been reconstructed and stored at a hangar in Farnborough, Hampshire.

Also in the field is a helicopter which has broken in half, as well as the fuselages of smaller aircraft.

Flight 103 broke into pieces at 31,000 feet before plunging to earth. The nose and cockpit landed in a field almost three miles from Lockerbie. A wing demolished 21 buildings in the town's Sherwood Crescent.

Investigators spent weeks gathering the more than 350 tonnes of debris scattered within an 80 mile radius. Each piece was taken to the army base at Longtown where 1,200 significant items were catalogued.

The breaker's yard owner was at first paid by insurers, but since PanAm went bankrupt the estimated \$1,000 monthly bill has been paid by Dumfries and Galloway police.

The plane was en route from London Heathrow to New York's Kennedy Airport when the bomb exploded. An investigation concluded that it was made of Semtex and hidden in a Toshiba cassette recorder, carried in a brown Samsonite suitcase. Libya has refused to send



The aircraft cockpit after the crash at Lockerbie in 1988 (above). Lamen Khalifa Fimah (left) and Abdel Basset al-Meghrabi may soon face trial in the Netherlands

two suspects, Abdel Basset Ali Mohamed al-Meghrabi and Lamen Khalifa Fimah, to Scotland for trial. However, last week Muhammad Gadhafi, the Libyan leader, said he had no objections to handing over the two suspects to be tried in the Netherlands under Scottish law and by Scottish judges. Previously Libya had insisted on an international panel of judges.

Speaking from Tripoli in an interview with CNN, Colonel Gadhafi said: "Of course Libya is ready to talk directly... more details must be clear. Although he said Libya attached no conditions, Colonel Gadhafi repeatedly mentioned possible "tricks" by the US, Britain or the United Nations Security Council, and that he was not sure "America and the UK have good intentions to solve this problem".

He also insisted that sanctions imposed on Libya must be lifted as soon as agreement on the trial procedures was reached. However, on Friday the Libyan leader qualified his position, rejecting demands that the suspects should be handed over immediately. He told Qatar's al-Jazeera television channel that the US was trying to rush Libya.

"The word 'immediately' does not apply to Libya," he said. "If they want to act nervously, let them do so. We are not ready to witness confusion or send people without guarantees. We need [to have] negotiations and we need to sign an accord with international guarantees that will be sponsored by the UN secretary-general." Colonel Gadhafi concluded.

## Prince asks SNP for talks

Gerard Seenan

**T**HE Prince of Wales has asked for a meeting with the leader of the Scottish National Party over concerns in royal circles that the rise of nationalism could presage the fall of the monarchy in Scotland.

Alex Salmond was approached by the prince's office some time ago, but no date has been set for a meeting. It is understood the royal family are worried they may be seen as ignoring Scotland or using it just as a place to hide from publicity.

Although the SNP officially favours retaining the monarchy, albeit on a reformed and pared down basis, it has a strongly republican wing led by the Perth and Kinross MP, Roseanna Cunningham.

At its conference last year the SNP committed itself to a referendum on the future of the royal family shortly after independence. However, a motion committing the party to campaign for an elected head

of state in the referendum was only defeated after some deft political manoeuvring by Mr Salmond and the former deputy leader Allan McCartney, who died last week.

Mr Salmond's commitment to the monarchy as head of state in Scotland is thought to privately annoy some senior colleagues, but they know that even in Scotland — which has marked republican sympathies — it could be politically inexpedient to say so publicly.

A spokesman for the SNP said Mr Salmond looked forward to reassuring the Prince of Wales that the royals had nothing to fear from a nationalist government. "Our position on this is absolutely clear. We will campaign for a reformed and pared down monarchy subject to constraints of a written constitution."

"Everyone in the party will stand by that line, but it is up to the people of Scotland to decide what we want in the referendum. We will put before them."

However, it is extremely

unlikely that the republicans in the SNP will be seen campaigning for the retention of any form of monarchy. Mrs Cunningham, who refused to tone down her republican views in the stormy by-election campaign that took her to Parliament, was unavailable for comment last night.

**'It is up to the people of Scotland to decide what they want in a referendum'**

The prince's approach to Mr Salmond is likely to be seen in some circles as meddling in politics, although no party would say it officially last night.

The rise of nationalism in Scotland — from a killed fringe to the real alternative to Labour — and its consequences for the monarchy are

sure to have been discussed between the Queen and Mr Blair at Balmoral this weekend.

Scottish Labour are becoming increasingly anxious over the lacklustre (and the nationalists' extraordinary) performance in Scottish opinion polls. Mr Blair is worried Scots are beginning to feel their needs are being ignored or overlooked — a concern seemingly shared by the royal family.

But if Mr Salmond has his way, the monarchy, if not Labour, will be welcome in an independent Scotland. In the latest edition of Newsweek he reaffirmed his party's commitment to the royal family.

"We have no intention of throwing away the social ties that have been built up over 400 years since the crowns of England and Scotland were united," he said.

Such a view will almost certainly be in the party's manifesto for the Scottish parliamentary elections. But whether it is openly supported after that is another matter.

## Alarm at rush for anti-terror bill

Michael White and Richard Norton-Taylor

**T**HE Government last night was facing growing disquiet over its anti-terrorism package after MPs learned that the contentious bill will not be published until Wednesday morning, only hours before the Commons meets in special session to pass it into law.

With cross-party support promised by William Hague and Paddy Ashdown, there is no doubt that ministers will obtain a thumping majority for legislation to make it easier to convict members of banned organisations like the Real IRA — and to broaden the scope for criminal agreements and boosting hardliners on both sides.

Labour MPs Harry Barnes, Gerry Bermingham, and even senior loyalists like Donald Anderson have been voicing concern, as did the Liberal Democrat peer Lord Russell.

like most current emergency legislation. "It would be surprising if it wasn't renewable every year," said one official. The Irish Daily also returns this week for its emergency law-making. But Tony Blair's determination to match Dublin's moves to smash the ramp militants of the Real IRA will be achieved at a political price in the Commons — and in the Lords on Thursday.

Labour's former Northern Ireland spokesman Kevin McNamara confirmed that he is tabling a reasoned amendment to enable MPs in all parties who share his doubts to vote against the bill, not least because it may prove counterproductive, undermining support for the Good Friday Agreement and boosting hardliners on both sides.

Labour MPs Harry Barnes, Gerry Bermingham, and even senior loyalists like Donald Anderson have been voicing concern, as did the Liberal Democrat peer Lord Russell.

How wide the revolt will spread is unclear. Leftwinger David Winnick last night predicted most Labour MPs would swallow their doubts.

"I don't know who the other rebels are, I am acting only for myself," said Mr McNamara, MP for Hull North. He voiced widely shared fears that, in the wake of the Omagh bombing, MPs are being bounced into supporting ill-considered measures.

"They are still drawing [the bill] up, operating on the hoof under pressure from one side or another," he said.

The Lib Dem defence spokesman, Menzies Campbell, said at least a week should have been allowed between publication and legislation.

The "draconian" core of the planned change is to allow conviction on the word of a senior policeman and inferences to be drawn from exercising the right of silence.

One reason for the rush is President Clinton's visit to Ireland on Thursday, though Mr

McNamara claimed that US support for the Anglo-Irish curbs has been muted because they would breach America's own Fifth Amendment, against self-incrimination.

The catch-all clause to curb London-based terrorism affecting other countries will be extended to include conspiracy to engage in any serious offence abroad. Whitehall sources confirmed yesterday.

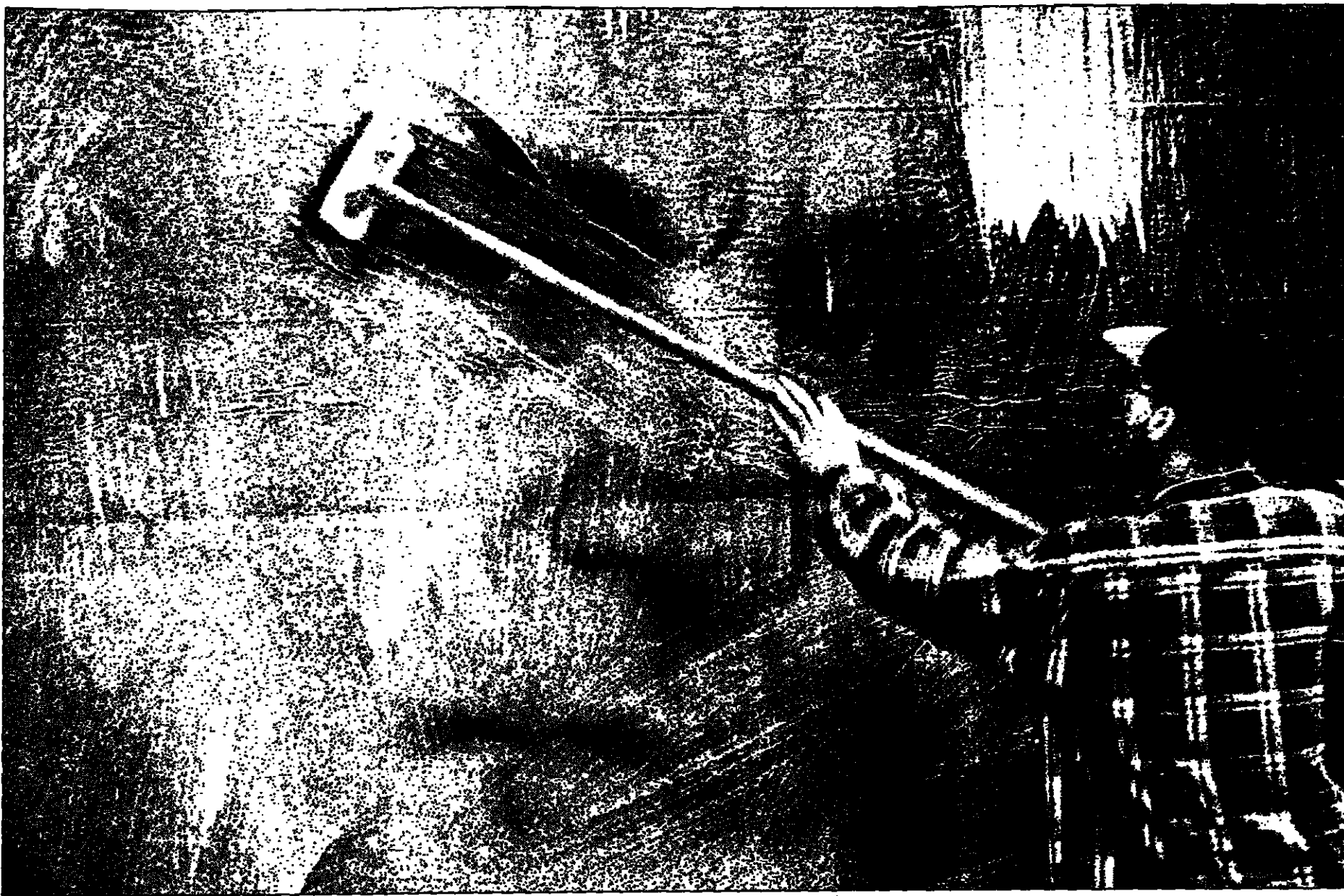
When Mr Blair unveiled details in Omagh last week, it scarcely noticed that the Government has seized the opportunity to broaden the measure to cover drug trafficking, for example, and paedophiles.

Government lawyers have warned ministers it will be difficult to prove prosecution claims that conspiracy in Britain — in robberies, for example — is related to foreign terrorist groups.

The Government hopes this approach will deflect criticism that it is concerned only with political opponents of foreign regimes.



## Pre-poll gloom in Germany



As September 27 looms, Helmut Kohl posters go up in Hanover and all over Germany, while Gerhard Schröder (below) works the south PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER MÜLLER (top) AND WIEGMANN

## The give-us-a-job election

In just a month Germans vote for what they hope will be better times. But in the industrial town of Siegen Ian Traynor finds few who believe their wishes will come true, under either the country's political father figure, Helmut Kohl, or his rival

**W**ERNER smiles sourly and rolls another cigarette as he recalls Siegen's better times when he was a boy: jobs were plentiful, elections were about real choices, and this industrial town of 120,000 occupied a proud place in the German economic miracle. It is all a fading memory, like an old black-and-white childhood snapshot.

The two statues dominating the centre of this hilly town in the heartland of western Germany encourage Werner's nostalgia. The twin bronzes depict a miner and a foundryman, celebrating labour as its own reward and evoking an era of work, security and consensus.

Werner, too, is a foundryman, a dying breed in Siegen. Since he was 15, he has worked the furnaces at the Krupp steelworks outside the Westphalian town, about 50 miles east of Bonn, and still clings to his job 24 years later.

"When I started there from school, there were 6,500 at the plant. Now there are 825. It's not the same." Nor is Germany. Fearful for the future of its hugely successful wel-

fare state, groping to make sense of its place and identity in a transformed Europe, Germany goes to the polls in exactly one month to return a verdict on Helmut Kohl's 16 years as chancellor.

With unemployment remaining higher than 4 million for the past two years — the highest levels since the 1930s — there is no doubt what the biggest election issue is for the 60 million voters, 80-90 per cent of whom traditionally make the Sunday trek to the ballot box.

The annual index of German angst levels issued last week — a survey called Germans' Fears done each year by a Munich insurance company — put general unemployment at the top of the league table. Dread of losing one's own job was in third place. A rising cost of living and anxiety about poverty in old age also featured strongly.

"Jobs and welfare are easily the main issues," says Dieter Pfau, aged 38, a former typewriter who is now a mature student of history. "But I'm very disappointed by this election campaign. It's the Americanisation, the glitz and the lack of substance. The differ-

ences between the parties have melted away. It used to be that when you went to vote, you voted between two different directions. No longer."

It is a common sentiment, a lament for the passing of old certainties, bewilderment at the bland and easy soundbites



Gerhard Schröder, the challenger to Helmut Kohl, is seen in a campaign where the candidates are ruled by negatives — don't trip up, and don't say anything that might be construed as offensive to the voter's sensibilities.

The main reason for the confusion over what differentiates the two big parties, the ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), is the strategy of Gerhard Schröder, Mr Kohl's challenger and the man tipped to be next chancellor — a scheme aimed at attracting the swing vote, stealing some of Mr Kohl's traditional support and cruising to power on the backs of "the New Centre".

While Mr Kohl futilely seeks to polarise the election and paint the Social Democrats as closet leftwing extremists, Mr Schröder has been more successful by ap-

pearing vague and centrist, declaring the end of ideology and claiming that he will rule Germany much in the manner of Mr Kohl, only better.

Anton Janesch, a Siegen gent's clothing outfitter, is voting for Mr Kohl as he has done in the past four elec-

tions. But tellingly, if grudgingly, he concedes that Mr Schröder has the better tactics and image, likening him to the Social Democrats' last chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, felled by Mr Kohl in 1982.

"I much prefer Schröder. He's sympathetic, he's charming. But I'm voting for the Christian Democrats because the SPD can't manage money."

He just wants to line his pockets' "The New Centre? What's that?" "Schröder is charming. But the SPD can't manage money"

hear, that's all we get. I'm sick of false promises, from Kohl or Schröder. We need a real change of policy in this country, more for jobs, more for the welfare system, more for the family, more child benefit. Everything the government does is for the entrepreneurs, nothing for ordinary people."

But like possibly a majority of core SPD voters, Ms Roth is deeply suspicious of Mr Schröder. "The New Centre? What's that supposed to be? If Schröder wins, maybe the left wing of the party will recover... but Schröder won't be easy to control."

Werner, the foundryman (who does not want to give his full name), used to support the Social Democrats or the Greens, but Mr Schröder has lost his vote, while the environmentalist Greens have joined the establishment.

"It's just all money and power nowadays, isn't it? That's all this election is about," he grumbles. "Kohl? He's finished, and not before time. But Schröder? He just wants to line his pockets."

So he will not bother to vote? "Of course I'm going to vote. But this time, for the first time, I'm voting for the PDS," the former East German communist who has almost no support in western Germany.

With unemployment by far the single biggest issue, Mr Kohl, lagging in the opinion polls, is pinning his hopes on a late recovery of the jobless figures to bring them below the 4 million level before September 27, while Mr Schröder tells rally after rally that his future government should be judged on one criterion alone, its jobs record.

This does not really wash in Siegen, where the two bronze workers on the main square evoke a halcyon past but seem a cruel commentary on Germany in 1998.

MEPs have urged the PPK to call a truce as a gesture of goodwill. But Mr Yilmaz said: "If Ocalan is trying to create a political platform in Europe, his efforts will be in vain."

The military insists that the expensive war against the PKK, fought in the mountains in the south-

east, is almost over, though clashes have continued. Gen Kivrikoglu said at his inauguration that the struggle against terrorism would go on. But the rise of political Islam is seen as a bigger security threat.

There had been suggestions in the media that Gen Kivrikoglu would take a softer line against Islamic radicals, but sources close to the military dismiss these claims.

The new chief of staff insisted: "It is our first duty to be vigilant against those who want to introduce Islamic sharia laws and darken the future of our country."

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"He will work through diplomatic channels first," said Metehan Demir of Hürriyet newspaper. "But there is a doctrine in the Turkish military that it must always be ready for a possible war with Greece."

Turkey has a massive military modernisation programme, with multi-billion-pound tenders for armed attack helicopters, early warning aircraft and a new generation of battle tanks.

Despite — or because of — its high profile, the military remains the most popular institution in the country. "It is the apple of our eye," said President Süleyman Demirel on Friday. "It is the cement binding Turkish unity."

## Howard calls poll before Asia crisis hits Australia hard

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

**P**AULINE HANSON and her anti-immigration One Nation Party will face their first test of national support on October 3 after the prime minister, John Howard, yesterday called an early general election in Australia.

Mr Howard's conservative Liberal-National coalition has turned the A\$10.5 billion (\$3.6 billion) deficit it inherited in 1996 into a surplus, despite the Asian crisis.

But the effects are starting to hurt Australian exports and tourism. Rather than wait until next May, when the constitution would have obliged him to call an election, Mr Howard has chosen to go to the country before the economy is harder hit by the Asian downturn.

The prime minister is pinning his hopes of defending the conservative coalition's large majority on a plan to introduce a 10 per cent VAT-style tax on goods and services, while cutting other taxes, including income tax.

"In the area of taxation we have a plan for the nation's future," he said. "Labour has a series of promises to buy votes."

Mr Howard believes the election will be fought over economic management and taxation reform. Kim Beazley, who leads the opposition Labour Party, insists the issues will range far wider and include health, unemployment and the threat that One Nation could hold the balance of power in parliament.

Both leaders have said they would not join forces with Ms Hanson to form a government. But that resolve may be put to the test after its surprise showing in the recent Queensland state poll. One Nation is expected to stand

candidates in most of the lower house's 148 seats.

"The battle lines are drawn and we're just rearing to go," declared Ms Hanson, who has tapped a rich vein of voter discontent with her anti-Asian and anti-Aboriginal xenophobia.

But because of a redistribution, the independent MP has been forced to stand in a constituency where pundits say her re-election is far from guaranteed. Mr Beazley, who is a close friend of Tony Blair, is also in danger of losing his marginal seat in Perth owing to support there for One Nation.

He accuses Mr Howard of a failure of leadership for refusing to attack Ms Hanson, who has right and back multiculturalism and Aboriginal land rights.

"Over the last couple of years, as a people, we have turned in on ourselves in a process which has not been discouraged by this government but we need to emerge from this election with our sense of generosity intact," the Labour leader said.

It is only two and a half years since Labour was swept from office after 13 years by Mr Howard's landslide victory. Labour needs a uniform swing of 4.5 per cent to regain power.

Besides the budget surplus and low inflation, Mr Howard's achievements include tighter gun laws and a promise of a referendum next year on whether Australia should become a republic under a president in 2001.

But the spectre of One Nation, whose policies include restoring tariff protection, liberalising gun laws and introducing zero net migration, continues to hang over his government.

Leader comment, page 9

## Food riots rife in Indonesia

John Agillans in Jakarta

**I**NDONESIA yesterday witnessed its sixth consecutive day of widespread unrest, sparked by popular desperation after recent massive price increases.

Analysis is predicting further violence because there is no end in sight to the country's economic crisis and people are dissatisfied with the failure of President B. J. Habibie to control prices since he took over from the autocratic Suharto as Indonesia's leader in May.

In several towns across Java soldiers have been ordered to shoot to kill after mobs of starving people attacked and burned rice mills, plantations and shops. In North Sumatra, troops shot one man dead on Wednesday.

A sizeable proportion of the rioters are women and children in search of rice, flour, cooking oil and other essentials.

Many of those looting mills, shops and warehouses say that their daily wage will no longer buy one kilogram (2.2lbs) of rice. In the past few weeks the price of the country's staple has almost doubled, to sell at 5,000 rupiahs (30 pence) a kilogram, only 300 rupiahs less than the daily minimum wage.

More than 40 per cent of Indonesians are living in poverty, earning less than the minimum wage, and it is predicted this figure will rise to

more than 50 per cent by next year.

Major-General Joko Subroto, the military commander in east Java, the area worst hit by the popular disturbances, said troops had been told to shoot rioters if warnings to disperse went unheeded. "Because the looters are becoming more and more reckless and brutal".

Police commanders said the unrest was "purely criminal", but many observers believe the food crisis is now so acute nationwide anarchy may not be preventable.

Turkey, Vietnam and Taiwan promised last month to send more than 1.2 million tonnes of rice to Indonesia as soft loans, but all three deals have fallen through.

An agriculture expert, Thoby Mutis, said yesterday that the crisis is unlikely to be resolved soon because "there are insufficient supplies, the distribution system is not functioning and so many government officials stink of corruption".

He said that until May, distribution was controlled by ethnic Chinese, but there is a vacuum because most Chinese fled in the riots and have not been replaced."

One Western financier said the government would find it very expensive to buy rice from overseas. "Everyone knows Indonesia is desperate and so they are jacking the prices up. But Habibie has little choice if he does not want the whole country to erupt."

**Nigel Slater's free recipe card introduces a sumptuous dish of sausages with double cream.**

**The Observer**

Starting this Sunday in the Observer enjoy extra helpings of Nigel Slater with extracts from his new book, 'Real Food', and 6 weeks of free recipe cards.

## Turkey's new hard man snubs Kurds

Chris Morris in Ankara

**T**URKEY marked the 70th anniversary of its war of independence yesterday with a new military high command and the swift rejection of a ceasefire offer from Kurdish rebels.

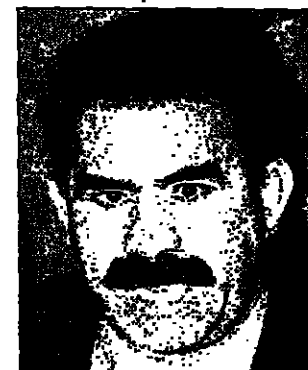
In a television interview on Friday night, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Abdullah Ocalan, announced a unilateral ceasefire, to begin tomorrow.

Kurdish sources said it was to coincide with the transfer of power at the top of the Turkish military. The land forces commander, General Huseyin Kivrikoglu, has taken over as the chief of the general staff, making him one of Turkey's most powerful men.

The military opposes negotiations with the PKK after a 14-year war fought with extreme brutality. The PKK is regarded as a terrorist group with little public support.



No dialogue: General Huseyin Kivrikoglu, Turkey's new army chief of staff (left), shows no inclination to respond to the goodwill gesture of the PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan



The prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, dismissed Mr Ocalan's offer of talks and urged the rebel leader to surrender.

The PKK has modified its demand for a separate state and says it is prepared to accept a political solution within Turkey's borders. Some European Union

MEPs have urged the PPK to call a truce as a gesture of goodwill. But Mr Yilmaz said: "If Ocalan is trying to create a political platform in Europe, his efforts will be in vain."

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east, is almost over, though clashes have continued.

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# Comment

## e-mail

Martin Walker  
@Brussels

**O**UR local bistro was doing the usual brisk lunchtime trade yesterday, offering a delicious *plat du jour* of potage, omelette and chips and salad: 360 francs, about six quid. Christine cooks and serves. She used to be married to Monsieur Robert, who ran the place and enlivened the walls with his cheerful paintings until this Easter. He sold the bistro to Marc, one of his regular customers who had just come into a small inheritance.

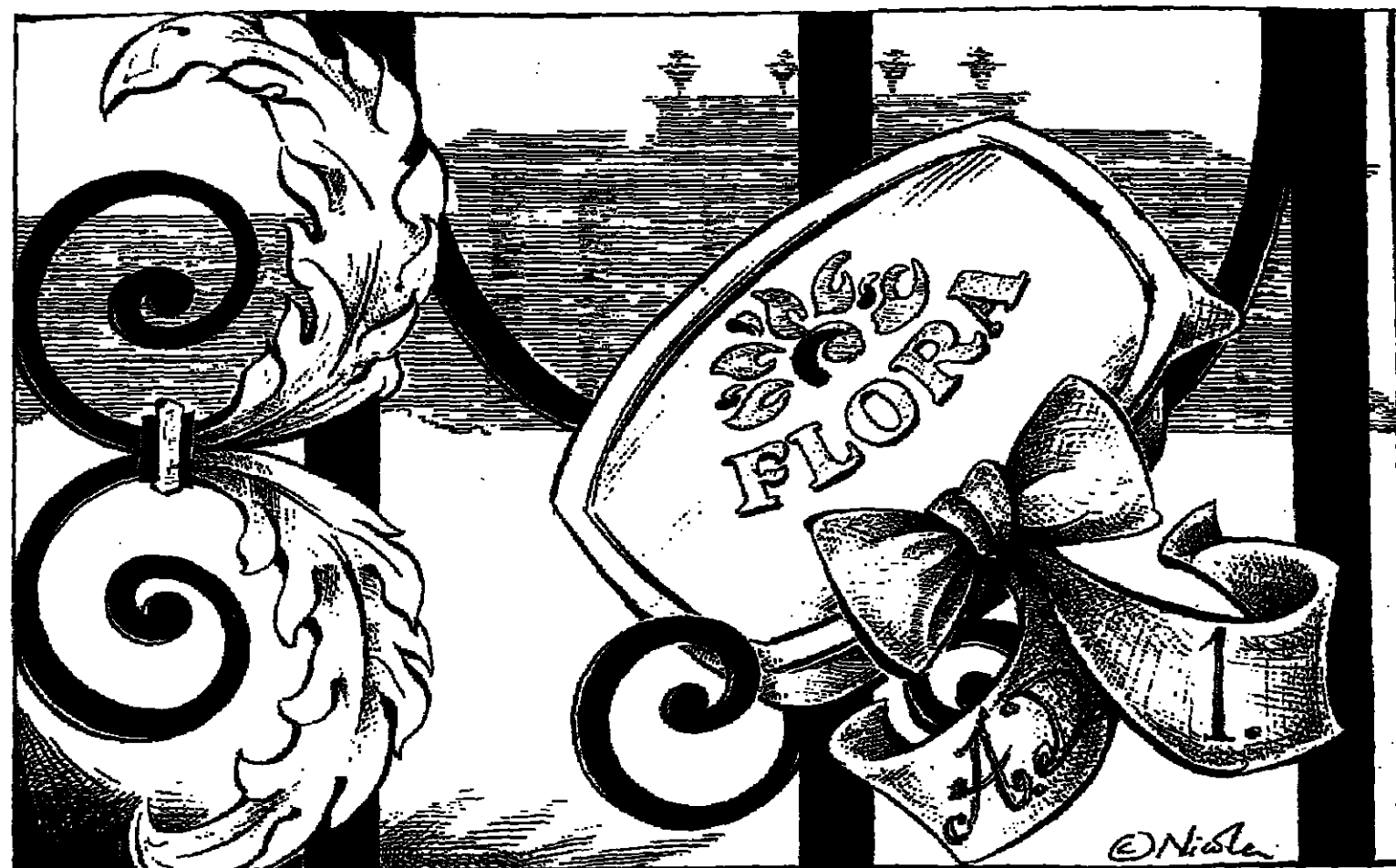
Marc now runs it. Christine still cooks, and Monsieur Robert and Marc play cards every night with the guards coming off-duty from the local prison. Just like they always did. Christine's prices and menus of mussels and steak and chips have not changed. It's a small place, half a dozen tables, and customers eat the same dishes as Marc and Christine cook for themselves. But my wife says she doesn't know how Christine serves such meals at such low prices, and when I asked her, Christine replied: "Don't you get the pub?"

She meant the public. Each weekend in Brussels, three glossy pamphlets are dropped through our front door, listing the special offers and prices at the three big local supermarkets. This week, the chain called GB is offering six bottles of rosé wine for the price of four, which works out at seven quid for the half-price. Chicken thighs are £1.50 a kilo, and 24 cans of Stella Artois cost four quid. Round the corner, the Match chain is offering a pork roast at three quid a kilo, and apples and grapefruit at just under a pound a kilo. French Brie was half-price, £4.20 a kilo.

The recent fuss about Britain's high supermarket prices provoked the companies to boast of their special offers. Consumers who shop around can get bargains in Britain. But short of trailing round the shops, how do they find out in the local newspapers run double-page spreads of supermarket ads with loss-leader prices, and in Belgium, the pamphlets are stuffed through the door.

This European single market is a curious beast. German supermarket prices are close to British ones, and the country explains this through the social wage, taxes driving up prices by adding 43 per cent to the salary costs. But Belgium has a social wage of 47 per cent, yet still manages to offer low prices. And Thatcher's Britain, with a social wage at 28 per cent, manages to get away with charging more. Britain is a poorer country, with a national income per head 15 per cent lower than that of Belgium, according to the latest figures from the EU's statistical arm.

The scandal of British car prices, which the EU Commission reports to be an average 30-40 per cent higher than in Europe, has been known for years. But it seems to persist, despite all the efforts of car importers and the Consumers Association. "I went to England for a week last year. Never again. It was too expensive," said Christine yesterday. "I don't know how you all afford to live there."



## Will New Labour end private medical practice on public time?

Polly Toynbee



**W**AITING lists have risen inexorably since the National Health Service began. It's the paradox of an ever healthier nation: the more new treatments, the more demand to be treated. Cutting lists, says one manager, is "trying to defy the laws of gravity". Yet the Government says the impossible has to be done. Last week, numbers waiting for operations did turn down, with a bit of fiddling, clearing out of dubious cases and buying extra sessions in private hospitals. One ophthalmologist tells me he's just done 60 quick cases under management orders to do the zits (easy ones); all his long hard cases are still waiting. So that's 45,000 down, but still 107,000 to cut by March next year and 207,000 by the next election — cuts that have to stay cut forever. Defying gravity indeed.

But there is one solution no minister dares mention — or at least not in public. It's what consultants do with their time. Are some spending too much of it away from the NHS tending to private patients? To say yes sounds so Old Labour that the blood drains out of political faces as they whisper it, but now they do. It's not a matter of ideology, or anti-private medicine socialism, but something has to be done about those consultants who give too little time to the NHS.

The consultants' contract pays them a basic £97,300, not fat cat money for the hard years of training. But many consultants are on a "maximum part time" contract, paid slightly less than that (ten-elevenths), allowing them to do as much private practice as they like. This was

Nye Bevan's historic compromise when he couldn't find the money to what top doctors were earning in the private sector. The contract still retains its crucial, if deliberately vague, proviso that all doctors must give "substantially the whole of their time" to the NHS. What does that mean? Consultants' job plans usually specify only 5-7 half-days a week. The idea is that the rest of their time is spent on letters, management, teaching and the like. But it's time many spend partly in private practice.

Take the case of Mr K, an ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeon in East London. He's a good doctor who's technically fulfilling his NHS contract (just). But he's giving "substantially most of his time to the NHS". The answer has to be no. He has a very long NHS waiting list, but the patients on it get only five sessions from him a week. He spends six sessions in private practice.

I called his private consulting rooms to make an appointment for an imaginary nephew's tonsils. No problem. I could have an appointment with him at a private hospital on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning. He operates privately on Thursday evenings.

When is he in the NHS? On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and only alternate Friday mornings. How long would I have to wait for an NHS appointment? Mr K has just two emergency appointments left before Christmas, and anything non-urgent will be next year. After waiting for that out-patient appointment, Mr K's waiting list for surgery is

another six months. There can be little doubt that if Mr K spent more time in the NHS, his waiting list could be halved.

How typical is he? The BMA says there are always shirkers in any professional barrel. It's not that Mr K is lazy, just a bit greedy. Surgeons do routinely spend two half days a week in private practice, many spend more. There's a huge variation in surgeons' NHS productivity, even among those with identical case mixes. Research suggests a third of surgeons do too little, a third do well, and a third do vastly more work than they are contracted for.

If so, then getting tough with doctors like Mr K would cut a swathe through waiting lists. But dare the government antagonise the doctors just when they most need their co-operation? Mr K's manager says he would dearly like more power to deal with doctors not putting their weight in the NHS — but he'd be anxious about any general move that might offend his many over-worked consultants, the geriatricians and psychiatrists who work twice the hours they're contracted for.

Appearing sometimes to inhabit another planet, the BMA has just asked the government for a new consultants' contract to allow them to do yet more private practice. So far they've had no reply, while ministers consider what strategy to adopt. Is this a prime chance to re-open the whole question of consultant hours? Some wise old departmental birds remember Barbara Castle's disastrous attempt to remove pay beds from the NHS, when

the doctors won hands down. Should the government go for a confrontation with the bad apples, or will waiting lists come down faster by oiling all consultants' wheels and keeping them happy?

One surgeon put it: "Next Saturday I've cancelled my private out-patient clinic to do an extra NHS operating list. They are paying me a lot less than I'd earn in my private clinic, but I'll do it, although I don't have to. And I don't think it needs doing. I'm doing minor cases, chosen by managers, including one non-urgent only on the list for a week. This is politicking, not medicine. I don't feel morally committed to pointless list reduction and if they attack us, I won't do it."

One gynaecologist told me, with brutal honesty, that he could easily inflate or decrease his NHS waiting list by 30 per cent either way and no manager would dare challenge his clinical judgment, waiting list reductions can't be delivered without getting a grip on under-performing consultants. It doesn't mean attacking private practice ideologically, but it does mean making sure the NHS gets good value for all its salaries. Will New Labour dare do anything so old?

My second thought was less mundane. How can some farmers, unlike the owners of our village Friars and Charolais, continue to farm with the conscious intention of keeping them anaemic? And how could so many members of the NFU — again, unlike my neighbours — feed their cows on the remains of other cows? I suppose the answer is that farming is more about profit than aesthetics. I must be careful not to share my mother's fantasy of rural England.

## Take me to your leader

Peter Preston



**C**AN'T win, won't win. Margaret Thatcher's lumpy prophecies aren't a news story, for they merely proclaim the obvious. The Conservatives have lost the next election already. And the question beginning to absorb the erstwhile "natural party of government" — is who's to blame?

Mrs T, unwithered by age or doubt, finds that easy. Anybody but her. Had she still ruled over Downing Street, then victories would have rolled unceasingly forth. Since the unmentioned Hague is her successor, he naturally carries the ultimate can. But there are other interim candidates for opprobrium — like "the Three Stooges, yesterday's nobodies, candidates for the Monster Raving Loony Party (Brussels branch)".

So much, then, for Michael Heseltine, Stephen Dorrell and Kenneth Clarke. Seventeen months ago, they were three of the Tories' biggest hitters; but these days the editor of Britain's most influential paper (the Sun) swipes them effortlessly into oblivion. At 65, Hezza should tend the plants in his mansion; Dorrell should search for his lost charisma — and Clarke should concentrate on his fat cat directorships.

Inevitably we're talking Europe again: the itch the Conservatives have to keep scratching. The Stooges are apparently planning a bit of a Bournemouth conference demo. So, even before August's over, the saps are rising. But there is one cool and necessary point that affects Tory fortunes every day of the year: a by-product of the Euro-divide which underpins Lady Thatcher's prediction.

Simply: William Hague needs what the Telegraph calls "his left". He needs a sell-line's growing gravitas. He needs Dorrell's thoughtfulness, David Curry's sharp integrity and Damian Green's dispatch box promise. But, most of all, he needs Ken Clarke. He is lost without him, and will lose by losing.

None of this worries Ken. He came within a whisker of the leadership himself last year, but it didn't quite happen: so he is hankering a little cash, drinking a little beer, and enjoying himself. If he thinks the Tory line on Europe is dotty, then he can grin and shrug and say so. He does not appear to be overburdened with regret. He just carries on. Meanwhile, the economy he bequeathed to Gordon Brown does not appear similarly resilient. The plight of the rouble sets stock markets rumbling. Industry order books have emptied. Inflation still keeps the Bank awake at night, and sends its Governor plunging into the property market. The soft landing is looking harder by the moment. Nobody, for all the aspirations, has abolished economic cycles — and this time we're weakening ahead of America, out of sync with both sides of the Atlantic.

Opportunity, in theory, knocks early for Hague. John Major never recovered from the pits of '91-'92. Helmut Kohl will probably pay the same price next month. The stupid economy ditched George Bush and could write off Al Gore's prospects. But who have the Tories got to lead this charge? They began with Peter Lilley, but he was so nice, reasonable and feeble he had to be made deputy leader. They resorted to Francis Maude, who is crisper with the sound-bite and was out of parliament earning a living during the Major calamities, but out of sight, out of mind. Most of the time the Mighty Redwood falls and falls again, berating Brown for the high pound (but not for the tax jumps that could have lowered it).

This is the thinnest of teams. It does not sound, and does not look, as though it could do a better job, or has access to a higher wisdom. If

there is a painful recession, a grateful country won't dream of turning its way.

Here is the pain of the absent Ken. The country, on the polls, wanted him as leader. He was that rarest of modern breeds, a successful character who got out in time. It is, with some justice, his inheritance which gave Gordon Brown his flying start and, with only a touch less justice, his wonders that will be remembered if things (as they do) go badly wrong. He could complain about mistakes and be half-believed. He could claim he'd have done it better and have tolerable supporting evidence. He would be an opposition's ace in an economic hole.

The gorgeous folly of the Conservative Party is that it might have foreseen all this and positioned itself for recovery the moment the new chancellor's plans began to take — but deliberately chose not to do so. And it shows no sign of realising that mistake. As the chance to scabble back arrives, they're still ratcheting on about Europe: a decision for after the next election, not before.

**B**Y then, Boris Yeltsin will be history: we shall be through the economic downturn and coming out the other side. By then, Labour will be able to fight a referendum and a third election as victors, not vanquished. And Ken Clarke may be back at his mini-mansion, pruning the roses.

There is no sign of the madness ending. Mr Hague has done little but trawl the summer chat shows, telling elaborate jokes for Des O'Connor. His closest aides, unless they're into elaborate jokes too, are pondering a post-Bournemouth party referendum which would be used to top pro-European candidates standing for re-election. Ken's



The Tories have to win back enough ground to remain part of the game

## The cattle are standing like statues

Roy Hattersley

**L**IKE so many of the politicians with whom I spent my later life, the house in which I was brought up faced two ways at once. The back bedroom window opened on to Wadley Common, a square mile of hilly scrub that led to the Derwent Valley, the Peak Park and the Pennines.

From the box room at the front — to which I was relegated when Uncle Syd came back from the war — I could see what I believed to be industrial Sheffield, Batchelors' pea factory and a brewery. To me they embodied the idea of furnaces glowing in the dark and steam hammers giving a little belch before they crashed down on ingots of white hot steel.

My mother, a collier's daughter, was brought up in the Nottinghamshire coal field — part of rural England, as D H Lawrence would have gladly confirmed. She would have

liked me to inhabit an arcadia which was no less fantastical than my romance of heavy industry.

Her hopes were shared, in an even more extreme form, by my grandmother who (bedridden with rheumatoid arthritis) had never looked out of the back window. One day, she wept to think that little Roydye would never see a cow.

I saw thousands of them. It was not possible to play cricket and football on the sloping pitches of South Yorkshire without cursing the cattle which had inhabited the field before play began. However, I have only just begun to find cows attractive. My love affair with steel ended after nine months as a "management trainee", when I decided that far from becoming a captain of industry I would be lucky to be promoted corporal.

But, even before I became a reluctant Londoner, I was half blind to the countryside. All that attracted me in 30 years of exile was the terrain. I longed to lift up

mine eyes to the hills and see limestone against the skyline. The animals did not interest me at all.

Even when I began to return to limestone country for part of each week, all I noticed about the cows was their uncanny resemblance to the farmyard animals which my mother bought me over 60 years ago. Then they began to impose themselves upon my life.

Despite their ruminate reputation, they have become a far more vibrant presence than the hares that suddenly skip through the long grass, the sheep which do seem to be silly (though not in the Miltonian sense of the word) and even the huge buck-rabbit which, having read Waterbury Down, stands on guard outside the highest warren in the hillsides. Cows have character.

I became a student of bovine psychology about a couple of years ago, when my dog — on a lead, as Peak Park regulations require — gave an inquisitive glance

at a straggling heifer. The animal itself did not even twitch. But the herd from which it had been separated began to walk towards us, very slowly. If they had run, I would have known exactly what to do. I was brought up on the simpler sort of cowboy

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films which always included a cattle stampede. So the dog and I would have crouched behind a convenient bolder until the thundering hooves and dust storm had passed. But walking towards me seemed more of a reproach than a threat. Hoping to emulate their dignity, we

turned around and sauntered home.

It was respect for the mother's privacy — together with a squeamishness, bred from watching too many episodes of *All Creatures Great And Small* — that made me hurry on last Friday night rather than stop to watch the birth of a pair of late summer twins.

There is a farm, inside our village. The byre — home to two pedigree herds — is immediately across the road from the church. And at 11.30, the lights in the yard outside were blazing. Another one coming?" I asked vacuously. "Another two," answered one of the young men in the knee-deep straw. "The vet's on his way." I did not admit my uncertainty about whether the black and white expectant cow was a Friesian or Charolais.

It took me 36 hours to develop enough nerve to confirm my deduction — based on the evidence that I had a black and white model cow in 1940, long before

Charolais were common in Great Britain. At the time when I casually mentioned the happy family's breed, I was leaning on the yard gate watching in wonder the two long-legged calves gently tiptoeing around their mother. Perhaps I should have been in awe of nature's miracle. But my first thought was prosaic: the point of being biological. How on earth did they fit inside less than two days ago?

My second thought was less mundane. How can some farmers, unlike the owners of our village Friars and Charolais, continue to farm with the conscious intention of keeping them anaemic? And how could so many members of the NFU — again, unlike my neighbours — feed their cows on the remains of other cows? I suppose the answer is that farming is more about profit than aesthetics. I must be careful not to share my mother's fantasy of rural England.

مكتبة الامير



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## Australia's key test

Will voters pick isolation?

THE Australian government has been between a rock and the proverbial hard place since Pauline Hanson's new One Nation party took a quarter of the vote in the Queensland elections in June. Her success in Queensland, and her general appeal across Australia, as attested in opinion polls, revealed that the number of Australians who no longer trust or believe the established parties was far larger than mainstream politicians had imagined even in their worst dreams. Her simplistic messages on race and the economy and her plain woman's rejection of the multicultural principles that have prevailed in Australia for 25 years threatened both the ruling conservative coalition of the Liberal and National parties and the Labour opposition. One Nation took votes from both sides of the political street, but the greater danger was to the conservative parties, who saw that Hanson might deprive them of victory in the general election they had by law to call

between now and next summer. The dilemma of John Howard, the Liberal prime minister, has been a difficult one. He could go to the voters early, when Hanson's appeal would still be fresh but Australia's economic situation, inexorably weakening under the impact of the Asian crisis, would still be relatively favourable. Or he could go later, when Hanson might have peaked, but the economic picture could be dire. He has plumped for the first option.

This will be Australia's most important election for many years. No doubt the prime minister hopes that the argument that it is better to have the right than the left in power in difficult economic times will be convincing. On the other hand, he has stacked the odds against himself by insisting on going to the country with a plan for value added tax which is deeply unpopular and which has lost his party, under a different leader, one recent general election already. But which of the major parties wins is less important than how strongly the voters embrace One Nation in the Senate, where Mrs Hanson's party might well end up holding the balance of power, and the Lower House, where it is just conceivable it could do the same. The whole tone and direction of Australian politics would be altered by such a result, which would put a nativist "Know Nothing" party

at the centre of national affairs. On the other hand, if One Nation achieves only limited success, that would be a welcome victory for liberal values.

But even this better outcome would not fully resolve the Australian political crisis, which is the product of a long parting of the ways between the country's elite and a large section of the Australian population. Australia is a country where the psychological distance between ordinary folk and their political leaders can be as great as the physical distance — and can, at times, be stretched to breaking point. Over the last quarter of a century, the Australian elite has pursued a dual programme of neo-liberal economic changes and of new directions in international and cultural policy. A strong attachment to Asia, evident both in an opening up of the country to Asian immigration and in the celebration of ethnic difference within Australia, has emerged. So has a different approach to black Australians, one more aware of past offences by whites, and more open to Aborigine claims, including those on land. Some Australians, most evident in the declining country towns of the bush but present, too, in the suburbs and the cities, feel as threatened by these economic changes as they are perplexed by the cultural shifts. They wonder what has happened to "their" Australia in the busy

world of multicultural politics, food, and fashion. Whether they direct the bulk of their votes to One Nation, or whether they will give them, after all, to the established parties now promising to make up for past arrogance, is the most critical question Australia has faced for decades.

## Bill gridlock

Prescott needs a legislative slot

JUST five weeks ago John Prescott was the darling of transport reformers. A long delayed white paper — the first comprehensive transport package for 30 years — won praise from environmentalists, cyclists and pedestrians. Within the space of a decade, transport policy had moved from Tory boasts about their 1989 road policy being "the biggest since the Romans" to a recognition in 1998 that car journeys must be reduced if gridlock was to be avoided. Some tough anti-car measures, like charging for parking at out-of-town supermarkets, were dropped on the insistence of Downing Street but there were plenty of other congestion charges in the package with the added lure that local authorities would be able to divert these funds into improving public transport. One week after the white paper, Prescott

blocked 103 out of 140 pending road schemes signalling the end to the old approach to road building — "predict and provide". It looked as though John Prescott might meet the expectations he raised last year when he declared: "The British people are in the mood for radical change and I am in the mood to give it them." Alas, it looks as though he is going to have to eat his words. Our transport editor reports today there will be no transport legislation in the next parliamentary session and no guarantee in the 1999/2000 session. Without such legislation, it is difficult to see how the Deputy Prime Minister is going to meet this year's pledge to increase the numbers using public transport and reduce the numbers using cars over the next five years.

Legislation authorising new tolls and parking charges was always in doubt for this session, but a bill to introduce a national strategic rail authority had been expected. This was a manifesto commitment, designed to take over the management of the private rail franchises from the franchise director, to ensure passengers a better deal through tougher regulation and specified service levels. Downing Street's nervousness about anti car legislation is understandable, but protecting fat-cat rail operators from tougher monitoring seems absurd: few moves would be more popular.

## Letters to the Editor

Clever Dick and moaning Minny

IT is a common misconception that airline manufacturers define the type of seats in their aircraft. There are a number of seat-makers and each airline chooses the type of seats for its aircraft. The A319, A320 and A321 aircraft that British Airways has just selected will have a cabin that is the widest and most comfortable of any short-to-medium haul aircraft, with seats that are an inch wider than any other in this class. Travelers thus experience the best comfort on Airbus aircraft. David Velupillai, Airbus Industrie, Blagnac, France.

Thanks for the piece on the "cleverest man in England" — Eric Griffiths of Cambridge University who transferred the fair town of Harlow (Report, August 28). I regularly bad-mouth Basildon and criticise social work students. So can we have a piece on what a bastard I am and some discussion on community care issues? Prof David Barendson, Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge.

SOME superstitions are grounded in reality. It is indeed "bad luck to... practice your new signature on the way to the [wedding] ceremony" (The Editor, August 28). Even if they intend to take their spouse's surname, newly-weds are required to sign the marriage registers in their pre-marriage surnames. Rev Brian Jenner, Sheffield.

ON TV Teletext there was a page describing the world financial plight. At the bottom was an advert "Loans — we want to say YES!" Perhaps this company could be introduced to the Russians? Jonathan Cairns (age 11), Tlshurst, Berks.

SO Frank Dobson is employing statistical doctoring ("Slight of hand" in waiting list fall, August 27). Will he be restaffing the NHS with spin-doctors? R A Seymour, Crediton, Devon.

MRS Thatcher these days? Sounds like a moaning Minny to me. Paul Procter, Ware, Herts.

## Selective view on exams

YOU report on the increased failure rate at GCSE (Tory gains 'squandered in exam drop', August 28) and Don Foster's comments on a worrying rise in social exclusion. So it is unfortunate the report is framed by the usual list of "successful" selective schools and A\* super-students.

Our urban comprehensive achieved 100 per cent of students with at least four passes A\* to G. Actually 99.3 per cent achieved five or more A\* to G passes — why did you miss the English exam, Sabhir? We also managed 44.7 per cent with five or more A\* to C grades. But I am most pleased with our achievements in helping students to achieve all ability to succeed.

Could I add to your A\* heroes? What about Carl, who overcame learning difficulties and a broken wrist on the morning of his first exam to achieve one D, two E and five F grades, or Stuart whose seven G grades mark a triumph for a boy who struggled to learn to read. Please try not to reinforce the trends about which you are expressing concern. Jim Joyce, Headteacher, Copley High School, Stalybridge.

ON August 20 my son found he had A-level results in maths, further maths, French, German and general studies. He had an offer of a place at Cambridge to study maths, unfortunately he was also required to sit the STEP papers which Cambridge maintains are an extension of the A-level syllabus and thus require no

further mathematical knowledge. He did not achieve the grade required. My son's maths teacher says the STEP syllabus is very different from the A-level syllabus taught in most state sixth-forms.

I read earlier this year of the Government's commitment to opening up Oxbridge entry. It's hard to believe that five A\* grades are an inadequate indication of a student's ability. My state comprehensive school-educated child felt that he had failed with grades which could not have been bettered if he had attended an elite independent school. Name and Address supplied.

RE your comments on helping low achievers. Yes, as a teacher I tend to put a lot of effort into improving the grades of aspiring pupils. And why not? Were I not to do so the media would accuse me of "failing" such pupils. A F Litten, Croydon.

UCKY Alex Faludy (How I faced the bullies and won, August 28) not only being diagnosed as having dyslexia in the state system, but being able to afford to go into a private school, rather than join the rest of the "special needs" students and have to go through the "streamlining system", which, as any dyslexic will tell you, is not easy at the best of times.

As a kid forced to go through high school with dismal grades because of dyslexia and dyscalculia, only to be diagnosed as dyslexic in college at the age of 17 (and an IQ of 140), as I collect my award, I will feel that the

years of waiting have been worth it, unlike some who have managed to jump the system. I just hope this will lead to all dyslexics getting the care and help they need. James Fearnley, Luton.

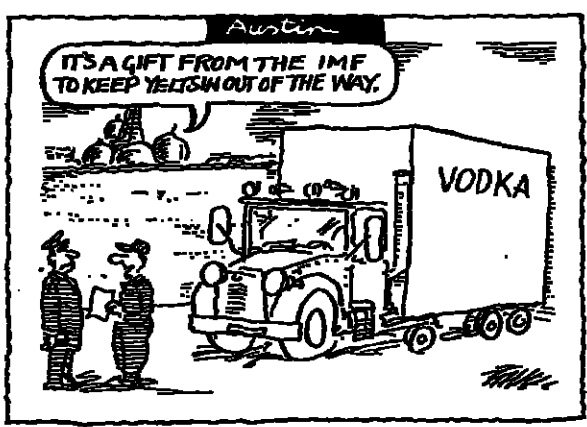
MY son at three could also recite stories verbatim. Unfortunately, he will not aspire to an Oxbridge education. He is severely autistic. Now at five, he does not know who he is, let alone struggle with writing his name. My experience of special needs is therefore very different from the Faludys'. Like many other parents I find myself fighting for laughable sums of money to provide a learning support assistant and speech therapy.

Thousands of us battle every day with little respite and feel desperate about the future. If the Faludys were fortunate to have been offered a large amount of money why not take it instead of depriving other families of therapy.

THE SEN code of practice states that a child should be offered an education appropriate to their needs. It does not have to be the best. For many of us, "appropriate" is long searched for. To get a place at a school willing and experienced in teaching children with severe, complex disabilities remains a privilege, invariably as a result of a hard-won battle. The support and sympathy should be for those whose health, finances, relationships and careers have the real cost of having a disabled child. Jackie Cheeseman, London.

see all the celebrities from Elton John and Clive James down, who filled your pages with their elegies to Di last year, interviewed to see if they stand by their words. And I want to read some more of the pseudo-radical justification for being interested in Di's death that you published at the time. Only then will I be able to come to grips with the memory of those awful days. Mike Stewart, London.

Please include a postal address, even on e-mail, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters. Please give a reference to the relevant article.



## Talking rubbish about the Thames

MICHAEL Meacher did not "write his hands in despair at the rubbish polluting the Thames" (Thames Barriers, August 28). He was launching Thames21, a proactive partnership between Tidy Britain Group, the Port of London Authority, the Environment Agency and Thames Water to address the problem of litter and poor quality local environments — one of the main barriers to people being more involved in the river and its tributaries. Prof Graham Ashworth, Tidy Britain Group.

GEORGE Monbiot underestimates the tragedy of the plans for the Wandsworth Bridge site. The local council has planning guidelines that no building should be built beside the Thames more than six storeys high; blocks of 20 storeys are being built. The Government is seeking to reduce traffic in London; space for another 1,000 cars is

planned. The Thames Path has been degraded into a tarmac track barely five metres wide, with no parks or cafes to break the monotony.

If Mr Prescott is serious about reviving London, he should reverse all planning decisions along the Thames immediately, until the newly elected Mayor can make democratic decisions about this National Heritage site. Rev Michael Wilmshurst, Canterbury, Kent.

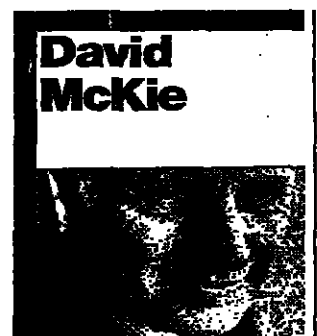
HERE in Kiev the banks of the river Dnieper have been transformed into several miles of beaches that everyday attract thousands to its sandy shores. Those seeking some respite from the sun may walk in the Hydropark — a long stretch of wooden area behind the beaches interspersed with kids' pools, fair ground attractions, tennis courts and billiard tables. Peter Shukla, Kiev, Ukraine.

## Child line

VOR Gaber (Letters, August 28) has missed the point. Of course it is right and proper that he is proud of his adoptive family and of "our differences". However, the point Felicity Collier was making was not to match babies to parents but the reverse. In contemporary adoption it is now the needs of the child that are paramount not the need of the couple to have a child. In a society still deeply racist it adds to all the usual problems for a black child to grow up with white parents. Living with racism everyday is different from sympathy and understanding from outside that experience.

I do not want to suggest that transracial adoption is impossible, it is simply that we need to hear from transracially adopted children rather than the adopting parents. These voices with the least social power which tell us of the pluses and minuses are the voices to which we must listen. Love for a transracial adoptive parent may not be enough when dealing with a racist culture. Let us hear less from parents and more from the kids. Prof Hilary Rose, London.

## Extirpate! Extirpate!



ONE HAS only to spend a few days abroad to find even familiar institutions at home suddenly astonishing — and none more so than the correspondence columns of the Daily Telegraph. One for weeks, reading them week by week, how different most of the Telegraph's correspondents are from the people one usually meets in the train or

the pub. It is difficult to determine which contingent is the more numerous: those "Telegraph" correspondents who have still not yet come to terms with the death of Lord Palmerston, or those who are still unaware that he's dead.

Both groups were well represented in the newspaper's correspondence during my holiday, on such issues as the future of Michael Heseltine, the best way to treat Islamic terrorist groups and the sort of legislation needed to deal with republican bombers in Ireland. In each case, remedies are suggested which even governments which boast of being draconian could not possibly contemplate. Yet the venom directed at terrorists is nothing compared to that unleashed over the past two weeks at the weed known as ragwort. It began with a news report on August 17 about the threat to horses from ragwort on roadside verges. "I have fielded hundreds of calls from

horse owners wanting to know how to get rid of ragwort," a spokesman for the British Horse Society was quoted as saying. She blamed the problem partly on ignorance and partly on government cutbacks.

That ragwort, though picturesque, is a serious menace can hardly be denied in the light of the correspondence which followed. What might not have been predicted was the vehemence of Telegraph readers' responses. A past president of the British Beekeepers Association signalled its menace to bees (or, as he put it, to beekeepers). Brooke Ward wrote from Goring-on-Thames to condemn both this "evil weed" and the organisations and people who'd allowed its untrammelled spread to continue, especially Railtrack, but also poor old John Major, who in his zeal for deregulation had rescinded the Weeds Act. Beryl Bowles of the Country Land-

owners Association warned that at Nolesey in Leicestershire, ragwort had even claimed the life of a bison.

SOME readers were constructive. "Though fatal in late summer," wrote Joan Smith of Aylesbury, mildly misplacing her participle, "sheep can eat it safely when the plant is very young." In other words, if sheep stopped being sheepish and pulled their hooves out, there wouldn't be any elderly ragwort left for horses to eat. Helen H Mills of Weybridge invested her hopes in the cinnamon moth, the larvae of whose caterpillars had in her youth chomped their way through much menacing ragwort. Gordon Craggs of Gillingham, Norfolk, advocated a National Ragwort Day.

But Lord Walsingham, writing from Merton in the same county, was rather less sanguine. Mature ragwort "or cankerweed, as we call it" —

must be pulled by hand. The present plague was attributable to "the newly wealthy youngsters who won't pull it at any price". There had been a time when his lordship had mustered Polish doctors, dentists and architects to conduct the war against ragwort — at rates which no English lad would countenance, but which paid them enough to keep their families for the year. But this had become illegal: so now, at 73, he was doing the job himself.

It took me some time to realise what these letters had in common with those on political themes. And yet the connection is clear. What brings all these people together is a just for extirpation. Extirpate terrorists. Extirpate the Tory stormtroopers. Extirpate the ragwort which still pollutes what was once the Conservative Party. Extirpate ragwort. As if to confirm this theory, the Telegraph printed on Thursday a letter from Tony

Rutton-Boyce of Chobham, Surrey, where the local common had already been identified as a scene of ragwort excess. "In addition to ragwort," he wrote, "Chobham Common also has mobile phone steel masts growing like weeds..." The Secretary of State, he said, should take steps to stop this nonsense. In other words: extirpate them as well.

I have this vision of typical Telegraph readers, or at least of those who write to Charles Moore. The first tender light of dawn has scarcely adorned the sky when they fling wide the windows of their houses, rural or otherwise but affording delectable countryside views and usually called The Old Rectory, with joyous cries to their somnolent spouses. "A new day is here!" they carol. "Let us, you and I, go out and look for something to extirpate!" If I were in ragwort's shoes this Bank Holiday morning, I would certainly fear for my future.

**'Stuart's seven GCSE G grades mark a triumph for a boy who struggled to learn to read'**  
Jim Joyce, Letters

## Why private prisons will not become colleges of crime

DECCA Aitkenhead (Comment, August 28) criticises Medway Secure Training Centre and compares it with the cost of the Northampton diversion scheme, but these are not alternatives. The Government attaches great importance to early intervention to divert offenders away from crime of the kind pioneered in Northampton.

However, there are some young people whose offending is so serious or persistent that they need to spend some time in a secure environment. The trainees at Medway are some of the most difficult youngsters. Sue Clifton, the director, has a wealth of experience of working with difficult young people in children's homes, and in secure accommodation. In opposition we did warn that the centres could turn out as colleges of crime, which is why in Government we are placing such strong emphasis on education, training and personal development work. Alan Michael MP, Home Office.

MEDWAY is a new institution run by Rebound ECD, an independent subsidiary of Group 4. The director and her team are committed to the task of looking after this demanding group and are working extremely hard. Like all new institutions there is a settling in period until the ethos becomes established. Ms Aitkenhead's remarks

about Group 4 having an interest in children going back to prison and cutting costs where possible are scurrilous. Our specifications to provide education and care have drawn upon advice from experts in residential, educational, and health care services for children. That we were awarded the first two contracts by the Government for its secure training centres at Medway and Onley indicates our service delivery reflects contemporary best practice. Malcolm Stevens, Director, Children's Services, Rebound, Broadway, Worcs.

IN your Analysis report on private prisons (August 28) you chose to highlight initial difficulties at Parc Prison without reflecting the recent significant improvements.

All new prisons face problems in their first 12 to 18 months. However, as the Prison Service director general recently confirmed to the Commons Public Accounts Committee: "There is evidence of distinct improvement in staff/prisoner relationships and control at Parc." Securicor is determined to ensure that Parc fulfils its true potential — not simply in terms of the considerable savings to the taxpayer, but also in the provision of a useful, purposeful prison regime. Henry McKay, Executive chairman, Securicor Security, Sutton, Surrey.

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J Morton Boyd

# Protector of Scotland

**J**OHN Morton Boyd, who has died aged 73, was one of Scotland's leading natural historians and conservationists throughout a period which saw environmental interests recognised as a key element of public policy. As the government's most senior conservationist in Scotland from 1971-85, he occupied a key role in that process.

In addition to his role as a public servant, Morton Boyd was a prolific author with much of his work concentrated on the Highlands and, particularly, islands of Scotland. He also travelled widely, often on behalf of the British government, to advise on environmental issues and research areas of outstanding interest.

He was born in Darvel, Ayrshire, the son of a builder. After Kilmarnock Academy, where he displayed a capacity for leadership which was to serve him well in later life, he went to Glasgow University. He initially studied engineering but after reading *A Naturalist on Rona* by Frank Fraser Darling changed direction. The book, a study of the ecology and land use of the Highlands and Islands, became the supreme authority on the region, initiated Morton Boyd's lifelong love affair with the islands of the west.

Service in the RAF from 1943-47 interrupted his studies, but after completing a degree in zoology, he remained at Glasgow to write his doctoral thesis on earthworms, written on the island of Tiree, a place with which he and his family later retained a special affinity.

Morton Boyd joined the Nature Conservancy as a Regional Officer in 1957. In the Kilmacchew area of Western Ross, he secured a degree of co-operation with landowners in order to introduce a deer management scheme to keep down the marauding numbers — unheard of at that time but now accepted (if not universally implemented) good practice. He also developed a particular expertise in seals and became deeply conversant with the animals and sealife associated with the islands which make up St Kilda.



Far-seeing... Morton Boyd made an enormous contribution to the rich tapestry of Scottish life

Fraser Darling had become his mentor and friend and the two co-authored the second edition of *The Natural History of the Highlands and Islands* in 1964. By then Morton Boyd was also travelling extensively and, as a result of his membership of a Royal Society Expedition to Aldabra Atoll in the Indian Ocean, became concerned about plans to create an RAF staging post there in support of Britain's presence east of Suez. Boyd relayed his concerns to Tam Dalyell MP who then conducted a celebrated, and ultimately successful,

parliamentary campaign to save the giant tortoises of Aldabra. When the Nature Conservancy Council was created in 1974, Morton Boyd became its director in Scotland. This was a watershed in formalising the role of a government agency in advising on all significant matters of land use and economic development. It was also a particularly sensitive time with supporters of the burgeoning offshore oil industry, in areas like Shetland and Easter Ross, impatient of environmental objections to their activities.

Morton Boyd, like Fraser Darling before him, was well aware of the economic and social needs of the region but was generally successful in persuading government to resist short-term exploitation which conflicted with environmental interests. In both administrative and political terms, he was a devoted and dedicated public servant and a devoted hill-walker, made an enormous

contribution towards the rich tapestry of Scottish life and knowledge of the life, in all its forms, which abounds in many of our remotest places. His quartet of books on the Hebrides will for long continue to be the definitive works on the natural history of these islands. He is survived by his wife, Winifred, and four sons.

**John Morton Boyd**, natural historian and conservationist, born January 31, 1925; died August 25, 1998

Justice Lewis F Powell Jr

# Judge who nailed Nixon

**I**T WAS an irony of history that Lewis F Powell Jr came out against President Nixon during the Watergate affair, for it was Nixon who had pleaded with him to join the United States Supreme Court.

Powell, who has died aged 80, eventually voted for compelling Nixon to hand over incriminating tape recordings, including the "smoking gun", that made resignation or impeachment inevitable. But he also argued privately for setting a higher standard for subpoenas to Presidents than for others.

Nixon must have regretted his choice. Powell's name came forward for appointment to the court because the Administration was desperate for respectable conservative judges. Southern if possible, but not tarnished with segregationist associations. He eventually yielded to Nixon's plea that he had a "duty, to the South, to the law, to the court, the President and the country".

Powell was never ideologically predictable. He always searched for consensus and often sought to defuse the bitter disputes between liberals and conservatives which split the court under Chief Justice Warren Burger.

Perhaps his most important opinion was that in the watershed 1973 *Bakke* case, which arose out of racial preferences at the University of California's medical school. He brokered a compromise between two bitterly divided factions and came up with a solution that barred strict racial quotas, while allowing race to be taken into account in university admissions and other affirmative action programmes.

Powell came from the old, cultivated southern elite that sought to maintain the South's "traditional way of life" in racial matters, while moved by a mixture of guilt, noblesse oblige and prudence to do away with indefensible and crude discriminations. A patrician moderate, he was chairman of the Richmond School Board at the time of the 1954 *Brown* decision, outlawing school segregation. He kept the schools open despite pressure from segregationists.

Powell passed top of the Washington and Lee Law School and after a year at the Harvard Law School went into private practice in Richmond. He became a highly successful corporate lawyer and built up his firm to national prominence.

A decorated volunteer during the second world war, he saw combat in the US Army Air Force and as an intelligence officer in Europe and North Africa.

**Lewis F Powell Jr**, lawyer and judge, born September 19, 1917; died August 25, 1998



Powell... consensus judge

As well as being President of three major legal bodies, the American Bar Association, the American Bar Foundation and the American College of Trial Lawyers, he also sat on the boards of 11 major corporations.

Powell took the pro-choice side on *Roe v Wade*, the leading abortion case. Yet on two other issues he began by taking the conservative side, later admitting that he had been mistaken. He argued for reintroducing the death penalty but later admitted he thought capital punishment should be abolished. Again, in 1996 he agreed with a judge.

Powell came from the old elite that sought to maintain the South's "traditional way of life" in racial matters

ment by another Justice that the argument that the Constitution protected homosexual behaviour was "at best facetious". Later he told New York University students that he regretted his vote.

In 1987 illness led to retirement. The battle over his successor was one of Washington's fiercest political battles of the past 20 years. Thus, ironically, did the retirement of the consummate moderate and compromiser throw the court back into the bitter ideological quarrels he had made it his business to accommodate.

His wife, Josephine, died in 1996. He is survived by three daughters, a son, and nine grandchildren.

**Godfrey Hodgson**  
**Lewis F Powell Jr**, lawyer and judge, born September 19, 1917; died August 25, 1998

Barbara Mandell

# Newsreader's place in history

**B**ARBARA Mandell, who has died aged 78, had the distinction, which in popular legend is regularly bestowed on others, of being the first woman to read the news regularly on television.

Angela Rippon, who first read the BBC news in 1975, is often assumed to have been the trailblazer. Nan Winton, briefly a newscaster in 1960, is fielded by viewers with longer memories. One or two in the BBC West region may even recall a local newsreader, Armine Sandford, from 1967. But Mandell had her own networked midday bulletin on ITN in 1965.

She was a South African who had entered BBC Television in the early 1950s as a news scriptwriter, a now lost art from the days before it was possible to have a reporter in vision speaking from the scene. Her task was to match a plucky commentary to whatever was going on in film inserts. The words were usually delivered by an actor specialising in voice-overs, but when Mandell was recruited by ITN some months ahead of the opening

of the commercial channel, she was allowed to try reading herself.

Aidan Crawley, first editor of ITN, was anxious to make the new service as distinct as possible from the BBC. He defined his newsreaders as "Chris Chataway and Robin Day as newscasters — broadcasters involved in the news."

There were women's items, such as a domestic segment she introduced from a kitchen set, until viewers complained about the unwashed dishes

not just voices. He also wanted more female participation. Mandell's pleasant good looks, open manner and mellifluous voice he thought particularly suited to news-casting, and he asked her to take a screen test.

The outcome was the noon bulletin, which she launched on September 23, ITN's first full day after the grand opening the night before. These were brave days at ITN, with a very small staff, limited

resources and everyone pitching in. One time, when the young Reginald Bosanquet covered a fire and suddenly remembered he was due to deliver the early evening news, Mandell had to scramble to the scene to take over.

Unfortunately, commercial television was slow to catch on, and the novel idea of daytime programming was even slower. The noon bulletin attracted the smallest audience, and when economics became necessary, it was the first to be scrapped. Mandell returned to scriptwriting.

Some reporting of fashion shows and first nights. There were also women's interest items, such as a domestic segment which she introduced from a kitchen set, until viewers complained about the unwashed dishes.

In May 1966, Geoffrey Cox, replaced Aidan Crawley. He, too, was impressed by Mandell's skills and personality. "Her scripts were always very clear," he remembers, "and with a nice touch when that was needed." On screen she was not very assertive — unlike her fellow South African Sue McGregor — nor was she a political person. But she had a very good voice. I put her back on to newscasting, just on Sunday evening at first. To put a woman in charge of a main bulletin in those days, I feared, would be seen as a gimmick.

Mandell left ITN before she might have overcome that last hurdle. Her marriage to the actor and radio personality Alan Dell was failing. She became the partner of Martin Gray, a distinguished cameraman, and together they made a number of travel films. On his death some years ago she retired to her home in Devon.

**Barbara Mandell**, television newsreader, born 1920; died August 28, 1998



Barbara Mandell... good looks and a mellifluous voice

F Maurice Speed

# Star of the film guides

**I**T IS probable that every Londoner with a passion for showbusiness has been brought up on one or other of F Maurice Speed's publications. Speed, who has died aged 86, edited the weekly *What's On In London*, the first successful London listings magazine, and with *Film Review*, the annual survey of the year's film releases, he virtually invented the modern film book.

A Londoner himself, the young Speed haunted a Hammer-smith flat, where he developed a lifelong love of Westerns. He was a prize-winning essayist before he left school. His first job was as an assistant to Edward Martell, the proprietor of *Sunday Referee*.

*London Week*, which first appeared in 1935, was the brainchild of four university graduates, who envisaged a

British counterpart of the *New Yorker*, but knew nothing about publishing. Martell stepped in to oversee the project and took Speed with him.

The magazine was not a success and changed hands several times, becoming *What's On In London* in 1937. Considered a dead duck, the entire enterprise was dumped into Speed's lap shortly afterwards. He designed the magazine and wrote virtually every page, using several pseudonyms.

He was F Maurice Speed, the film critic; Frederick Deeps, the gossip columnist; and J Lillywhite Hather, the book critic. The format, right down to the Diary of the Week and the unfailingly complimentary restaurant reviews, has remained pretty much unchanged to this day.

Speed used a brief and unhappy period serving with the

Army at Devizes to develop his idea for *Film Review*. The public, starved during the second world war of books in general and film books in particular, snapped up 80,000 copies of the first edition in 1944 and ensured its annual appearance. It went on to influence two generations of film fans and to pave the way for scores of copycat books.

*What's On* finally went into profit with the revival of tourism at the end of the war. It remained number one in its field of one until the launch of *Time Out* in 1968. For a while there was fierce rivalry between the politically opposed weeklies but eventually they learned to co-exist and have seen off the challenge of several upstarts including *Richard and Branson's Event*.

Speed remained *What's On's* editor until 1976 and its film critic until 1982. He sub-



Speed... lover of Westerns

sequently devoted most of his time to *Film Review*, surrendering it reluctantly and making his last contribution in 1986.

He was married twice, first to the actress Lorenza Harris, who survives him; second to Professor Andrée Wilson-Layat.

**David McQuibban**  
(Frederick) Maurice Speed, editor and critic, born October 15, 1911; died August 29, 1997

Zita Barnett

**Z**ITA Barnett, who has died aged 78, made an immense contribution to midwifery and helped it gain a professional standing.

After teacher training, she found her vocation at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary in 1943, inspired, perhaps, by her father, a coalminer, who joined the Royal Army Medical Corps during the first world war and was awarded the Military Medal and mentioned in despatches. Her two sisters also took up nursing.

From Cardiff, Barnett went as staff midwife to the North Devon Infirmary in Barnstaple and then in 1950 to the London Hospital. After another spell in Cardiff she was returned to London as a tutor.

In 1961 she became midwifery tutor at the Sumner Hospital, in what was then Tanganyika. These happy and challenging years sparked an enduring interest in African and world development affairs.

She returned to Wales in

1964 and after tutoring in hospitals in Swansea and Newport, in 1972 she became divisional midwifery officer for the Swansea Health District. Having been secretary of the Welsh board of the Royal College of Midwives, she went on to chair it from 1973-1980 and in 1981 was made vice-president. An outstanding educator and an able administrator, she trained several generations of midwives. She was honoured with an OBE in 1980 and a lifetime of service to others was recognised in 1997 with the Papal award of the Bene Merenti Medal.

A devout Roman Catholic, after retiring in 1980 she devoted much time to church affairs. Barnett faced her final, debilitating illness with the courage and good humour which marked her life. She is survived by her sisters.

**Michael Strimington**  
Zita Honora Barnett, midwife, born January 24, 1920; died July 22, 1998

Birthdays

Martin Bell, independent MP, 60; Serge Blanco, rugby footballer, 40; Admiral Sir Brian Brown, chairman, King George's Fund for Sailors, 66; Prof Robert Hargrave, astronomer, 82; Ann Coffey, Labour MP, 82; James Coburn, actor, 70; Liz Forgan, former managing director, BBC network radio, 54; Richard Gere, actor, 49; Prof

Christine King, vice-chancellor, Staffordshire University, 54; Clive Lloyd, cricketer, 54; Prof Sir Bernard Lovell, FRS, astronomer, 88; Van Morrison, rock singer, 53; Ed Moses, athlete, 43; Bryan Ryan, painter, 63; Itzhak Perlman, violinist, 53; Shahwar Sadeque, BBC governor, 58; Lynda Relphe-Richt, editor, Design Week, 50.

CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

AN ARTICLE which was headed *Poisoned chalice* (page 13, 22, August 25), refers to the physical effects of alcohol, giving various measurements in milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. For example we should have said, it takes at least 450 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood... to send a person of average build into a coma.

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may generally contact the office of the *Guardian's* Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5550 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. The office is closed today as it is a Bank Holiday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The *Guardian*, 119, Finsbury Square, London EC2A 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9887. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

كلمة من الجدل





## Brown back to work with a curse

IT IS almost as if Labour governments are cursed. For some unfathomable reason, their elevation to office seems to coincide with economic crises beyond their control — which is bad luck when you consider how infrequently Conservative political hegemony has been challenged this century.

Between the world wars, Labour was in power for less than three years, but it was at the head of a minority administration during the years that spanned the Wall Street crash and the Depression.

Indeed, it was the refusal of Ramsay MacDonald's administration to challenge the prevailing orthodoxy of the gold standard and balanced budgets in the face of a deflationary shock that split the party.

Similarly, it was left to Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan to pick up the pieces in the 1970s after a combination of Edward Heath and the Opec oil cartel created the conditions for runaway inflation.

Ironically, again Labour found it hard to break with the orthodoxy — in this case demand management and full employment — and staggered on for a bit before embracing an early form of monetarism.

After the events of recent weeks, the question is whether the Blair government is similarly ill-starred.

Is it time to visit the bookmaker's and put a small bet on William Hague for the next election?

It is one of the assumptions of modern politics that Blair is safely ensconced in Downing Street for two terms at least, but that presupposes

that the economy does not blow up in the Government's face and that the Conservative party continues to languish in the polls at around 30 per cent. The two are, of course, inextricably linked.

The economic situation has darkened considerably during the past month. When Gordon Brown left for his holiday in Cape Cod a month ago he was fairly confident the conditions were right for a slow-down but not a slump.

However, the latest forecasts from the Confederation of British Industry point to 1999 being a very difficult year. Growth is expected to drop from 2.2 per cent to 1.2 per cent, manufacturing to be in recession for a second year and consumer spending growth to weaken markedly to 1.3 per cent.

Given the tendency of forecasters to underestimate both upswings and downswings, the outcome could be even worse than the CBI expects.

Up to a point the Chancellor can tough it out. It is hard to see what alternative he has, given the decisions made early in Labour's tenure.

Brown's macroeconomic objective on arriving at the Treasury was to squeeze out inflationary pressure and create the stability he deemed necessary for faster growth.

No interview with a Treasury minister is now complete without a mention of the need to end the debilitating boom-bust cycle.

Staring's strength on the foreign exchanges suggests that the financial markets are reasonably happy with what they have seen so far.

Far from falling against other major currencies — which should be the case as a result of Britain's higher unit-labour costs — investors have been piling into sterling assets as a safe haven against the storm raging through the global economy.

Put simply, the prospect of a slow-down in Britain — even a sharp one — seems far less frightening than holding marks at a time when Russia is on its knees.

The problem, of course, is that the appreciation of sterling shortens the odds on the

confronts the Chancellor as he returns to work this week. The economy is palpably unbalanced, growth forecasts are being scaled down, the pound is overvalued, and the trade figures are worse than they have been since the start of the decade.

Various ideas have been aired for what Brown should do next. It is being suggested that he take back control of interest rates from the Bank of England or that, as a second-best option, he change the remit of the monetary policy committee to make it ex-

going to happen. Similarly, Brown has only limited scope in fiscal policy.

Plans for public spending were set earlier in the summer, and to the extent that they are mildly expansionary for the last three years of the parliament, they will help offset the drag on growth from high real interest rates, the exchange rate and a dire external economic situation.

Calls for fiscal policy to be tightened in order to take the pressure off monetary policy are completely wide of the mark — not least because the lags are so long that increasing taxes or cutting spending will be completely inappropriate by the time they take effect. The time for higher taxes on consumers is long since gone.

In effect, the Chancellor has little choice domestically but to plough on with his supply-side agenda, which has been imaginative and innovative and accept that he can do nothing more about the economy's demand side.

Internationally, there is more scope for activism. With Germany in the throes of an election campaign, Japan in recession and the US paralysed by President Bill Clinton's problems, now would be the ideal time for Brown to take the lead in forging a new international settlement.

There is a crying need for policies which not only recognise the need for co-ordinated expansionary policies to fend off the threat of deflation but also for structural reforms of capital markets and banking systems to fill the institutional vacuum at

the heart of globalisation. The chance of this, however, is pretty remote.

The Government has no real critique of globalisation and sees the problems of the past year as ones of political incompetence and corruption, rather than the result of fundamental defects inherent in a system of total capital market liberalisation.

However, if the global melt-down reinforces the domestically generated slow-down in Britain, the Chancellor is going to look very orthodox and very exposed.

Some of the arguments are already being rehearsed. As Ross McKibbin put it in the latest *London Review of Books*: "Brown has chosen to subordinate employment levels to monetary considerations — as did British governments in the twenties — and thus to ensure that the beneficiaries of his policies are those who do not vote for his party... What is most depressing is that the lessons of the twenties need to be learned all over again."

This is not really fair. Much of what Brown has done has been both redistributive and progressive and when did fairness have anything to do with politics?

The Chancellor has been the architect of Labour's economic strategy and has been allowed by the Prime Minister to take the credit when things have gone well. He can expect little mercy from the Millbank tendency — nor from the many, many Labour MPs with majorities of under 10,000 if things start to go seriously wrong.

## Why Keynes holds the key to rescue of underclass

**DEBATE/ROBIN MARRIS** is Prof Emeritus of Economics at Birkbeck College, London University. As an undergraduate at Cambridge he was taught economics by some of John Maynard Keynes's collaborators and in 1997 he gave a lecture which contended that Keynes was at least as relevant to the next century as to the present. After Labour was elected he imagined it was just the kind of message the new Government would like to hear. Now he realises how naive he was. Today's article is an edited version of the original lecture — next week Prof Marris will ask what went wrong

AS THE world's financial markets are crashing it must never be forgotten that the fundamental target of any national economic policy must be to maximise the long-run growth of what economists call "social welfare".

In other words, the average wellbeing of all the people in society with disproportionate weight given to people with lower incomes, or those who are born with inherited social, intellectual or material disadvantages.

In a book I published in 1996, *How To Save The Underclass*, I argued that in the last quarter of the 20th century this has gone wrong. An underclass has emerged. These are typically people born into families with a combination of low ability, low education and low income. Up to about five years ago in both the UK and the United States, they experienced falling or stagnating real wages, increasing non-inclusion in the open economy, increasing involvement in drug dealing and crime and finally an increase in imprisonment.

In both countries the upward tendency has since been slowed down, and I suggest that the essential reasons for this are not to be found in micro or social policies, such as welfare to work, but in the improved macro performance of the two economies.

Keynesian economics is often described as "demand-side" economics: look after the general demand for goods and labour and the supply side will look after itself. In contrast, a good example of the supply-side outlook is the belief that if people are unemployed it must be because they are unemployable.

I argued in my book that the cause of the new underclass problem was in fact an interaction between demand and supply-side factors.

The supply side was mainly new technology. The demand side was the failure of economies to keep up with the long run growth of population, with labour released by productivity increases and with the long-run increase in the number of women who desired paid employment.

What is needed is a fundamental change in the signals emanating from the Government, along with a more pragmatic attitude to inflation. The atmosphere around EMU, in this respect, is especially bad. In Britain, there is confusion in high places.

In a speech given in the garden of No 10 Downing Street in July to celebrate the first year's performance of his administration, the Prime Minister asked: "What other government would have given financial independence to the Bank of England as well as setting up a unit to deal with homelessness?"

What a strange apposition. Did he mean that he knew that the brief his Chancellor had given to the Bank would necessarily tend to increase homelessness? If not, what did he mean?

### Indicators

**TOMORROW** — UK: Consumer credit (July).  
UK: Purchasing managers' index (Aug).  
GER: IEC Council Meeting.  
WEDNESDAY — US: Factory orders (July).  
THURSDAY — UK: Purchasing managers' services survey (Aug).  
GER: Central Bank council meeting.  
US: Jobless claims (week ending 29 August).  
US: Productivity/Unit labour costs (Q2 revised).  
FRIDAY — US: Non-farm payrolls (Jun).  
Source: HSCB.

### Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.66	Germany 2.6011	Malaysia 6.52	Singapore 2.90
Austria 20.27	Greece 504.81	Netherlands 3.25	South Africa 10.35
Belgium 39.57	Hong Kong 12.50	New Zealand 3.32	Spain 243.56
Canada 2.55	India 68.96	Norway 13.30	Sweden 13.53
Cyprus 0.848	Ireland 1.424	Portugal 204.13	Switzerland 2.37
Denmark 11.07	Israel 5.24	Saudi Arabia 5.13	Turkey 442.750
Finland 8.89	Italy 2.853		USA 1.5142
France 9.95			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding ripple, shahel and moflet)

### Economics made easy

Charlotte Denny

## Why some of the poor are still getting poorer

Is globalisation increasing the gap between the world's rich and poor? Inequality is on the rise in many countries. Worst affected are the former communist countries, which used to have quite a flat income distribution. There have been sharp rises in inequality as they've introduced market reforms. Elsewhere the picture is mixed. It is generally true that low-skilled workers in the West have fallen behind the rest of the population over the past two decades. Some people have suggested this is because of competition from cheap low-skilled labour in the developing world.

Is that likely? Trade has definitely been increasing over the period unskilled workers have been falling behind. But there is an alternative explanation — the introduction of computers and new technology, which require trained operators, has decreased the demand for low-skilled workers.

Which explanation is correct? It is still being debated by economists and the evidence is mixed. Some studies suggest that up to a fifth of the increase in wage inequality could be caused by trade. But there are problems with this explanation. For one thing,

countries tend to trade mostly with economies at similar levels of development, so there isn't as much competition from low-wage Third World workers as is commonly supposed. While labour costs may be cheaper in the developing world, workers are not necessarily as productive.

Companies are interested in unit labour costs — how much it costs to produce a chunk of output — not hourly wages.

So western firms can afford to pay their workers more? It depends on the sector. Textiles and low value-added manufacturing, where

productivity increases are hard to make, are gradually shifting out of the industrialised economies into the less-developed world and this move seems unlikely to slow down.

Even within the developing world, countries face competition in these sectors. The first wave of Asian tigers, which grew rapidly on the back of low-skilled manufacturing, shifted into hi-tech production when they faced competition from the likes of Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

Are Third World countries catching up with the West?

Until the recent crisis in Asia it appeared that some of the fast-growing developing countries of the region were achieving western standards of living. In theory, in a more integrated world, poor countries should eventually catch up with rich countries. But some academics say the evidence points in a different direction. Growth rates for many low-income countries are abysmal. Rather than catching up the West, it appears there is an increasingly large gap between the small group of rich countries and the much larger group of developing nations. There is not much sign that the gap is closing.

## Roosevelt's new deal would be the right medicine for today

**Worm's eye**  
Dan Atkinson

THE money-changers are feeling the temple of civilisation, so it is not surprising that the R-word is starting to be heard once again. Where, it is asked, are the successors to Roosevelt when we need them?

In the months to come, we shall doubtless see

assorted candidates trying to audition for the part, jangling cigarette-holders and bussing sullen trainees around the country to keep down the unemployment figures.

So, with the 1990s "triumph of capitalism" going up in flames, what would he have done today? A glance at his record provides a few pointers.

First, he would have understood that, as in the 1920s, banking and speculation are the problem, not the solution. Roosevelt

would have pressed for an international version of his Glass-Steagall Act, limiting each bank to one country and forcing them to divest their investment arms and other activities. No "global" banks for him.

Second, as the deflationary gale hit with full force, Roosevelt would have mobilised the public sector to stand ready as employer of last resort. There would have been no question of ordinary workers bearing the pain of "adjustment".

Third, he would have beefed up the financial regulatory as he did 60 years ago, and unleashed them on the guilty men: the rogue traders and insider dealers. Lengthy prison terms could have been expected.

Fourth, he is likely to have taken practical steps to tilt the institutional balance firmly in favour of organised labour and against the boss class, but in such a way as to yield concrete benefits, not to turn industrial relations into a branch of the litigation industry.

Fifth, he would have convened an international summit to reshape the institutions (World Bank, IMF) that helped us into this mess in the first place, purging them of their obsession with sound money and balanced budgets.

Would it work today? Well, plenty of people thought it wouldn't work then. But, to return to Churchill's verdict, such a programme would probably be our best hope of achieving "an easier and more genial age".



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# FinanceGuardian

## Russian crisis unites West

Jill Treanor

**T**HE Group of Seven industrial nations and the European Union agreed last night to coordinate their response to the crisis in Russia amid concerns that failure by the G7 to come up with specific proposals to ease Russia's economic plight will do little to prevent further turmoil on the world's financial markets.

The agreement between Prime Minister Tony Blair, currently G7 president, and Austria's Chancellor Viktor

Klima, president of the EU, comes at a crucial time for the markets, which face another roller-coaster ride.

Mr Blair yesterday discussed Russia with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, Russia's biggest creditor, and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. Mr Kohl also spoke to Russia's Boris Yeltsin, who last week sacked his government and then agreed to step down in 2000.

A spokesman for Mr Klima said: "They [Blair and Klima] agreed that the European Union and G7 should co-ordinate their response to the Russian crisis". However

Austria does not intend to call an emergency meeting of European finance ministers or of the EU and G7.

Markets are anxiously awaiting today's debate in Russia's parliament on the appointment as prime minister of Viktor Chernomyrdin, whom Mr Yeltsin asked to form a government a week ago. Further political upheaval in Russia would provide another blow to world markets battered by Russia's decision two weeks ago effectively to default on its debt and then devalue the rouble.

The FTSE 100 share index fell to a seven-month low on Friday, as did Wall Street.

Most market commentators believe the turmoil is far from over and expect continuing turbulence.

"The markets are going to remain nervous about Russia, but the focus has moved on to Brazil and Hong Kong," said Marcel Cassard, chief economist for emerging Europe at Deutsche Bank.

Russia's difficulties have heightened investors' awareness about problems facing other countries, particularly in Latin America and Asia.

"Russia was clearly a trigger event. Investors are very nervous," Mr Cassard said.

Some experts fear Russia may now be driven from its reformist path back to a command-driven economy.

A spokesman for Mr Blair said yesterday: "There is a clear feeling among the G7 leaders that it is in all our interests to make sure Russia gets through this crisis and it will best be so by sticking to the reform path."

With London closed today, markets in Asia, Europe and the US are expected to have fallen further before dealers can next trade here.

The first indications of market sentiment will come from Hong Kong, where the

authorities have taken the unprecedented step of buying shares to prevent the stock market from falling. Mired in recession, Hong Kong faces the dilemma of whether to continue to maintain its currency's much-coveted peg against the US dollar, which may force the former colony to raise interest rates.

Dealers think the Hong Kong authorities may scale back their purchases in the stock market this week, which could lead to a dramatic slide in the Hang Seng index, which has been defying the downward path of other world markets.

### Hong Kong Notebook

## The inscrutable mask is slipping



John Gittings

**W**HILE Asia's week of financial blood-letting reached its peak on Friday, China was professing to be entirely unscathed.

It was the day when Hong Kong admitted that it was in full recession and the Japanese market hit its lowest level for 12 years. From South Korea to Singapore, GDP figures were in decline.

Yet in Beijing Premier Zhu Rongji went out of his way to reassert the mainland's pre-crisis target of an 8 per cent GDP rise for this year and insist that China would not devalue the renminbi.

This is carrying Taoist calmness a shade too far. China is wrestling with the worst floods for nearly 50 years on top of regional economic turmoil and mounting unemployment at home.

Puzzlingly, it is also only a few days since President Jiang Zemin suggested that the GDP target might not be achieved. He also shaded the concept of a growing seepage of the renminbi by adding that this carried a risk.

So why did Mr Zhu seize the not wholly appropriate occasion of a meeting with the US "tele-evangelist" Pat Robertson to stress the importance of his job — sticking to 8 per cent growth — and should anyone be impressed?

Insisting that a high growth rate can be achieved may indirectly help maintain confidence in the renminbi. But face of a different kind is also involved. The Chinese leadership has just been holding its summer convalesce with the seaside at Beidaihe where he was high on the agenda.

Chinese political culture still attaches huge importance to numerical targets. This particular one was proclaimed in March at the National People's Congress when Mr Zhu got his job.

WITH foreign markets and domestic consumption both falling, Mr Zhu appears determined

anyway to take special measures to keep output looking healthy. The plan is to pump state funds into roads, railways, new building and communications in the fourth quarter, which would jack up the overall GDP figure for 1998. This weekend Beijing announced a new issue of one hundred billion renminbi (270 million) in treasury bonds to finance the investment.

This sounds more like playing games with numbers than brilliant macro-management of the Chinese economy with which Mr Zhu is usually credited. But what remains of confidence in Asia rests so largely upon assuming that China will remain stable that Beijing has so far been given the benefit of the doubt. The whole region has a vested interest in high growth rates on the mainland. If output and exports continue to fall then China may have to devalue.

Last week an Asian executive poll in the Far Eastern Economic Review showed that most business leaders expect the renminbi to be devalued within six months. Only in Hong Kong — for obvious reasons of self-protection — do a sizeable number believe that it will not happen in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile observers with their eyes on the back alleys of Beijing and Shanghai are noting that black market traders have raised their rates for the US dollar. There are signs of a growing seepage of foreign currency out of China into safe havens abroad.

If China is forced to devalue, it will have an alibi close at hand. Chinese leaders have made plenty of sour remarks about Japan's inability to tackle the yen crisis.

Mr Zhu drew a sarcastic contrast between American eagerness to see the yen devalued and its enthusiastic support for the stability of the renminbi at the Beidaihe Party conference. The difference, he suggested, was simply that Japan has bought heavily into the US national debt and devaluation would reduce the size of its holding.

He and other Chinese officials have also poured scorn on Washington's compliments to Beijing. Action would be more appreciated and this, in the Chinese view, should not be confined to the economic sphere. Also on Friday, Beijing voiced its bitter objection to the latest round of planned US military arms sales to Taiwan.

## Huge trading losses cast doubt on bank marriages

**B**URGEONING trading losses racked up by western banks as a result of the Russian crisis are fuelling talk that the mega-mergers sweeping the financial sector may come to a halt, writes Jill Treanor.

Among the mergers now in doubt are those in the United States between BankAmerica and Nationsbank, and the

\$70 billion deal between Citibank and Travelers Group. Speculation also surrounds the planned \$30 billion flotation by Goldman Sachs, the investment bank due to come to market in the autumn.

Market conditions — which have driven shares in London and New York to their lowest levels for seven months — would make any float difficult

to manage. The fall in share prices would also mean that Goldman's partners would receive less from a float.

Speculation has also targeted the size of the losses many rivals believe Goldman has incurred in Russia.

A spokesman insisted that Goldman's exposure was "minimal, insignificant". The turmoil in Russia has

forced a number of banks to admit to large-scale losses. Bankers admit they are hard to evaluate, given the market for roubles and Russian debt has dried up.

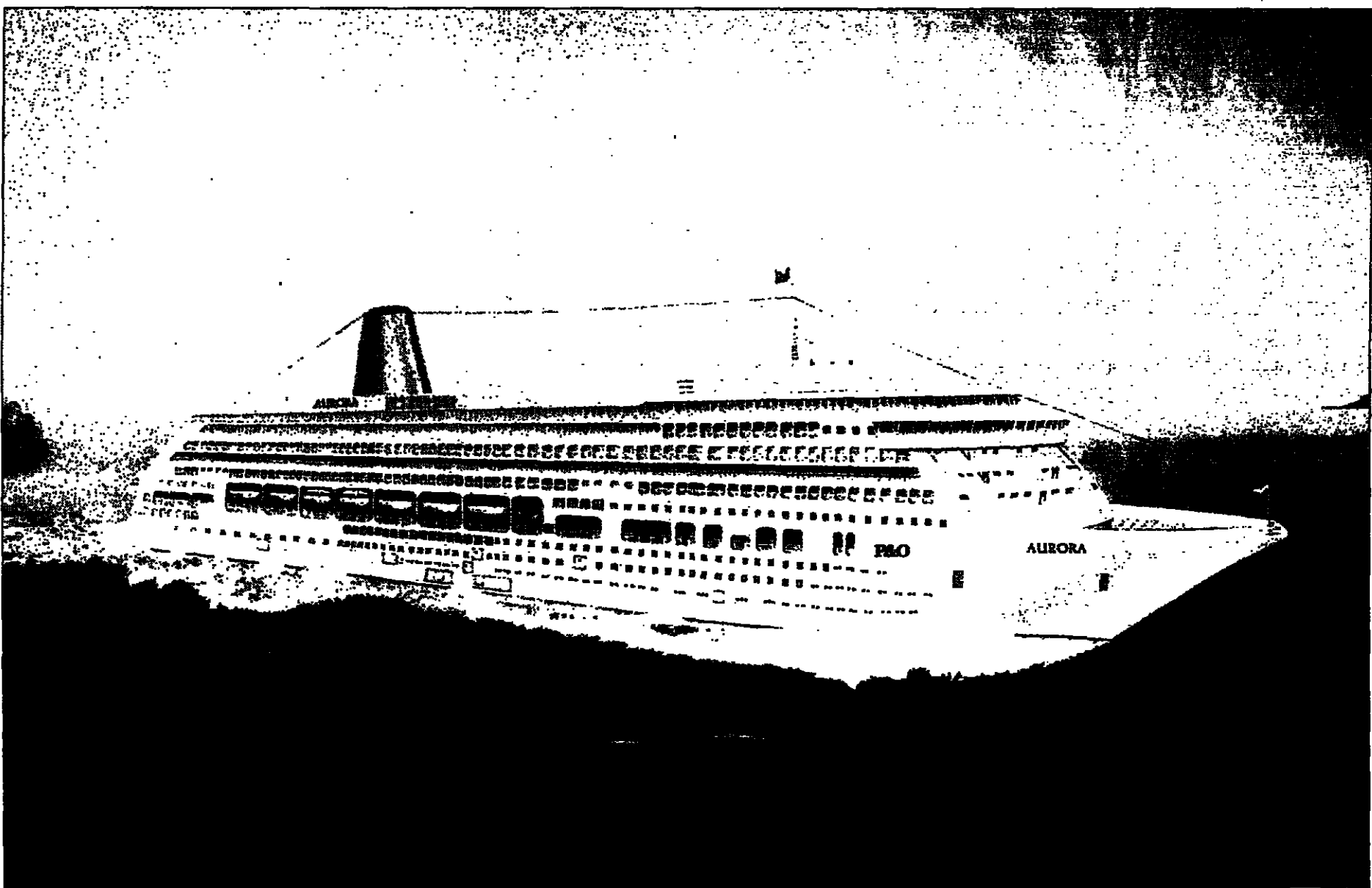
Investment bank Brown Brothers Harriman says US banks have about \$7.5 billion exposed to Russia — in contrast to Latin America, where they have nearly \$100 billion.

### Pending mergers and floats

Target	Acquirer	Value Billion \$
Citicorp	Travelers Group	72.5
BankAmerica	Nationsbank	61.5
Wells Fargo	Norwest	34.0
First Chicago	BancOne	29.5
Goldman Sachs	Flotation	30.0*

\*Estimated value

### New dawn for P&O



P&O's new £200 million superliner is to be named Aurora, and will join the company's fleet in May 2000. It was announced yesterday, writes Peter Woodman.

A sister ship to the Oriana, the 76,000-tonne Aurora (artist's impression above) will be based at Southampton. "Aurora, the legendary goddess of the dawn, is a fitting name for a superliner entering service at the beginning of a new millennium," said P&O chairman Lord Stirling.

Capable of carrying up to 1,850 passengers, the 886ft-long ship is being built at the Meyer Werft yard in northern Germany. Her keel will be laid in January 1999, and sea trials will take place in January 2000. Aurora should be handed

over to P&O Cruises in April 2000, with her maiden voyage taking place the following month. More than 106 feet wide and capable of speeds of up to 24 knots, the new vessel

features a number of "firsts", including two-deck penthouse suites. Passengers will be offered a champagne bar, a 24-hour bistro and tea and coffee-making facilities in every cabin.

## CBI in accord with Chancellor

Financial staff

**T**HE increasingly close relationship between the Government and the Confederation of British Industry will be underlined tomorrow when Adair Turner, the organisation's director-general, reveals that one of its main aims is to raise Britain's productivity.

It is an objective he shares with the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, who has said that matching the world's best in output per head was the "next big challenge" facing the Government.

Writing in the new edition of CBI News, Mr Adair tells the 250,000 members of the employers' federation that it will work in partnership with the Government in order to raise people's skill levels. He adds that "the national campaign to spread best practice will also be a key feature at the [CBI] conference" next month.

The issue of productivity

first burst on the political agenda in May when Mr Brown highlighted figures produced by McKinsey, the international management consultants, showing that output per worker in Britain was 40 per cent lower than in the US and 30 per cent lower than in Germany.

The figures were far worse for car plants, with Britain producing 86 per cent of that achieved in Japan, and, when Rover announced last month that it was to shed 1,500 jobs, Mr Brown attempted to blame poor productivity rather than the high pound.

Mr Brown also downplays any conflict with the Government in his second main aim, contributing to the debate about macroeconomic stability.

"The surprising feature of the last year has been that business worries have derived less from deliberate Government policy than from the old non-ideological, non-party political problem of exchange rate volatility," he writes.

## Racal tries to force telecoms sale

Chris Barrie

**T**HE electronics and telecommunications business, Racal, is stepping up its efforts to find a buyer for its telecoms division amid indications yesterday that a management buy-in is being assembled to bid for the business.

Having been forced to postpone a flotation of its telecoms arm, Racal is likely to welcome an approach from outsiders — if only to intensify competitive bidding for a business that has so far proved hard to sell.

Racal is based on the former British Rail telecommunications business and considered the most attractive part of what is left of chairman Sir Ernest Harrison's empire after the disposal of Vodafone and Chubb.

However, a volatile stock market and past reluctance of other companies to pay hefty prices for Racal's telecoms division have meant a deal is proving elusive. Adding to the predicament, Racal Telecom has yet to find a new chief executive, despite searching for several months.

Racal Telecom has been

subject to a management buy-in bid before, on that occasion led by Duncan Lewis, the former head of Mercury Communications. However, its offer was rebuffed. The new consortium is understood not to include Mr Lewis.

Last night Scottish Power, the energy company, confirmed that it was interested in Racal's telecoms subsidiary, Scottish Telecommunications, a cornerstone of the group's strategy for growth and recently it bought the Internet service provider, Demon.

But Scottish Power also in-

dictated yesterday that no bid was in the offing in the near future and that it had dropped out of previous negotiations on grounds of disagreement over price. Recent estimates have valued Racal at as much as £750 million.

The telecoms company En-ergis, also linked yesterday with a bid, indicated last night that it was not holding talks and had no immediate interest in making an offer.

The sale of Racal Telecom is one of the final tasks still to be completed by Sir Ernest Harrison who, at 72, has to consider retirement before long.

## City fishes for Scots life insurers' riches

Jill Treanor

**S**COTLAND'S life insurers are coming under strong pressure to float or merge from City investment bankers who would pick up fat fees if they won the management of deals for the mutual companies.

The head of one life company said last week that he was turning away investment bankers from his door in Edinburgh at the rate of at least one a week.

The push by City bankers to find potential merger candidates comes amid heightened speculation that Prudential, Lloyds TSB and AMP of Australia are keen to snap up insurance companies. AMP

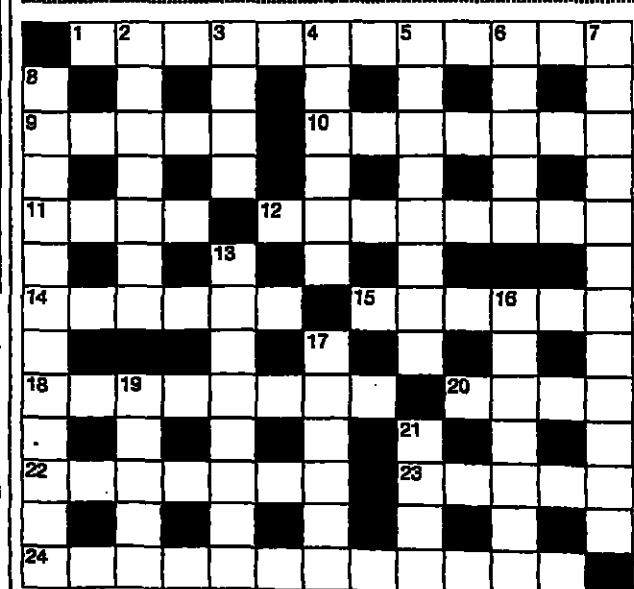
last week reiterated its ambition for further expansion in Britain. It has owned insurer Pearl Assurance since 1989, bought fund manager Henderson this year and has a joint venture with Virgin Direct.

It demonstrated its firepower last week by launching a hostile bid for another Australian insurance company, GIO. The former mutual also

stocked up its A\$8 billion (£2.7 billion) war-chest, arranged standby loans of £1.6 billion and implemented some other major borrowing programmes.

Such money is expected to fund acquisitions here and fuelled talk that former mutual Norwich Union, now listed on the stock market, may be a potential candidate.

### Quick Crossword No. 8840



**Across**  
1 Tamed (12)  
9 Nick (5)  
10 Hide (7)  
11 Placed on top (4)  
12 Enormous (8)  
14 Conventional (5)  
15 Halve (5)  
18 Dealer — and thriller writer (8)  
20 Stud — manager (4)  
22 Brilliant green — gemstone (7)  
23 Main — charge (5)  
24 US celebration in November (12)

8 Inadequate (12)  
13 Distinctive feature (8)  
16 Feeling (7)  
17 Old, experienced sailor (3,3)  
19 Stadium (5)  
21 Black marketeer (4)

**Down**  
2 In the open air (7)  
3 Reverberate (4)  
4 Alarm signal (5)  
5 Marijuana (8)  
6 Minister — to buy one a drink (5)  
7 Shop selling special or foreign foods (12)

Solution No. 8839

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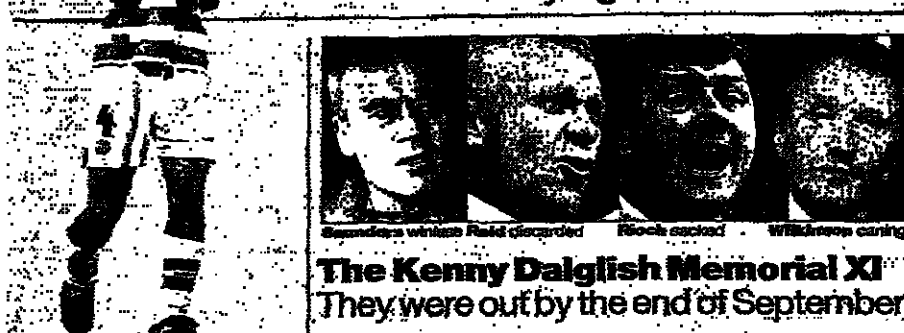






# Clogger

A sideways glance at soccer



**Their kit don't fit**  
No. 43 Jackie McNamara

A dismal night for Celtic in Zagreb on Wednesday. Things might have gone better if their work-to-rule in the great bonus dispute had not included playing with shirts two sizes too small.

## The Kenny Dalglish Memorial XI

They were out by the end of September

George Black	Selected by Arsenal before 92-93 season began
Michael Black	United during the last draw for Leeds in 1994
Ally Ainslie	Too dull for Fulham after eight games in 1997
Patric Reid	Discharged by high-flying Man City, August 1993
David Morrison	Made way for Saunders at The Dell in July 1996
Billy Bremner	Booted out by Leeds after six games in 1988
Tommy Stammers	Four winless games too much for WBA in 1987
Billy Bonds	Asked to step down by West Ham in August 1994
Graham Harvey	Selected by Villa after 6-0 defeat in 1986
Joe Jordan	Landed out to allow Macari to sit at Stoke in 1994
Christian Gross	No, hang on, he's still there

## A life in pictures

Terry Venables



## Ask the experts

Which was the most successful player in the history of the FA Cup? The FA Cup is the most prestigious trophy in English football. It has been won by 100 different players. Who was the most successful?

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## State of the nation

Switzerland

Population Seven million. Unlikely champions. FC Anglo-American, winners in 1994. Wenger: Unless you count Peter Bonetti, who had Swiss ancestry, Raimondo Ponte (help) was the first Swiss player of modern times in Britain. He came to Nottingham Forest in 1980, but made only 17 appearances. He is now coach of FC Zurich. "Who remembers Carlo Ponte at Forest?" said David Platt in 1986. Not him, obviously. Stranger in a strange land. When it comes to strangeness, Christian Gross and Tottenham were used for each other. Since his triumphant entry by tube in November last year, the enigmatic Swiss from Grasshopper has inspired a million headlines of the Gross phenomenon. He would be the only adequate punning substitute. Important import Marc Hotz? Hardly. Hotz's boss Roy Hodgson, manager of the Switzerland team that reached the second round of the 1994 World Cup, is the best we have had away from them recently. Contributions to world football (1) The "Boat System", an early experiment with a sweeper was developed by Karl Rappan, who was Switzerland coach in four separate spells between 1957 and 1963. Contributions to world football (2) With Uefa in

## A-Z of British football

C

... is for coin-throwing, the traditional greeting for goalkeepers and others in the Seventies, now undergoing a nostalgic revival in Scotland. "Cope handling the coin-throwing Rangers fan who decked Elia into Chris Chantley have quizzed a suspect." Scottish Mirror, 9/10/97

## Refwatch

Steve Dunn

Home town: Bristol. Home town's other claim to fame: Trip to: Chelsea. Suspiciously bright. Occupation: Self-employed referee. Hobbies: Travel and cricket. Trademark gesture: Adopts a jaunty pose when issuing decisions, keeping his left knee slightly bent at all times. Saturday's highlight: Awarded a free kick to Wimbledon after the Leeds midfielder Alfie Ince hadlanded him with a boot. Grandfather cards in the manner of... a man who knows there are other ways to spend a Saturday afternoon, waving yellow nonchalantly in only the vaguest direction of the offender.

## The gaffer tapes

Joe Kinnear

"People say I haven't bought any players, but anyone who knows about football knows that I made four signings at the end of last season." Joe Kinnear. People say? What would they know? "Dave is class and we have had to fight off Scarborough and Rochdale to sign him. Go ahead, Doncaster's player-manager has decided on their latest scoop signing — or, David Penney. "Don't expect me to feel sympathy for someone who ran into one of my players and fell over in the 93rd minute." Roy Hodgson gives short shrift to Steve Walsh's penalty claims.

## Off the park life

David Davies

Research: Dogs comes to South London. But who were they, and where were they going? Post, fax or e-mail your answer to the address below to win your choice of this month's new titles from the Football Book Club (0771-261, 1995 for a catalogue). Please include a phone number. Last week's winner: Gary Lineker scored one against Germany. Winner: John Mackinnon of Edinburgh.

## Premiership

Sheffield Wednesday 0 Aston Villa 1

# Gregory sees the funny side

Michael Walker on how the league's early high-fliers made light of both their problems and a toothless Wednesday

YOU HAVE just seen your team win a way from home to go top of the league for the first time in five years; you have over £15 million in your pocket and you think you are witnessing the first signs of the early superstar in the corner emerging from his lifelong sulk and turning into a reasonable human being.

No wonder then that the Aston Villa manager John Gregory joked his way through a series of impromptu press gatherings on Saturday evening. Life is a riot at Gregory Villas just now, and cajoling Star Collymore to participate in the dressing-room hunter Gregory feels essential for success is just one part of Villa's mind-boom since the

manager replaced Brian Little in February. Of course it is too early to brag about this season, but when one considers that Villa ended the last with nine wins out of 11 to go from 15th to seventh place — and Europe — then clearly something is developing under Gregory. And, with foreigners never far down the agenda, Gregory has not been slow to point out that 10 of his current team are Englishmen.

That was the case again here, although it was left to the exception, Mark Bosnich, to shed a little light on the difference the new manager has made. "What John Gregory has done is bring the fun back to Villa," said Bosnich. "Before it was like our job and not our passion. But he's a very positive person, and as a team you tend to take on the characteristics of your manager."

It is not difficult to imagine the colour of the humour on the Villa team bus to Hillsborough therefore, but Gregory, when asked if he had considered omitting Bosnich as punishment, rejected the easy option of false moral pieties and instead answered: "No. We have been having some contract talks as you know, and I told him this morning that I'd like to tie him up for five years." Then he smirked.

## Match stats

	Wed	Vill
Possession	58%	42%
Attempts on target	6	3
Attempts off target	6	5
Corners	3	4
Fouls	10	13
Offsides	4	4
Bookings	1	0
Sendings-off	0	0

Arsenal 0  
Charlton Athletic 0

# Petit's red paints a black picture

Russell Thomas says Frenchman's sending-off bodes ill for Arsenal in Europe

A DIRE disciplinary record did not prevent Arsenal doing the Double last season. So why be concerned the cynics would ask about another sending-off in the new campaign? Yet those same cynics would suggest the rashness of Emmanuel Petit has far greater potential for damage in Europe.

Arsenal will soon have to stop congratulating themselves over a favourable draw in the Champions League and address the streak of ill discipline that has dogged them since George Graham's days. In the Premiership they are swimming in a relatively honest pool, typified by an uncompromising but fair Charlton. In Europe Arsenal will be keeping company with sharks only too eager to feed off every human frailty.

Uncannily, Petit could have been talking of European combat rather than domestic battle when he spoke of the frustrations which provoked the two minutes of madness that invited his sending off early in the second half.

The Frenchman painted a black scenario: "It will be like that every game at home because we are the champions. It's very frustrating to play a game like this. It's like playing against a wall with the ball coming back all the time."

Charlton made no apologies for their performance and it was difficult to disagree with their manager Alan Curbishley's insistence that Petit's dismissal was not a turning point. Curbishley was not shouting when he fanned "we could get could three points towards the end" as Arsenal's 10 men tried.

Arsene Wenger had far less sympathy for Petit's recklessness than the Highbury crowd, who gave the midfielder a send-off worthy of a matchwinner rather than sinner.

"When he is frustrated," said Arsenal's manager, "he over-reacts. He shouldn't do it." Wenger suggested his view of discipline, almost benign last season, is changing. "I'm not happy with it. It's a big concern."

Wenger admitted: "He went into the World Cup without proper preparation — he was injured in early May — and he finished it exhausted. I am concerned. We cannot give him the time to prepare properly because we have so many games."

With Anelka patently lacking support Arsenal mustered only two convincing goal attempts. Sasa Lilic blocking Marc Overmars' shot and turning over Lee Dixon's drive after a flowing cross-field movement.

This was another remarkably efficient performance by a resolute Charlton back four who have gone more than 900 minutes in league games proper without conceding a goal.

They operate a mean offside trap and their midfielders sprang forward when the opportunist beckoned to alarm David Seaman with powerful shots from Mark Kinsella and Neil Redfern.

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Red route... Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit, who was sent off for two bookings, holds off Charlton's Mark Kinsella. MARK LEECH

Southampton 1 Nottingham Forest 2

# Late showing from Van Hooijdonk's heir leaves leaky Saints on bottom

Pat Symes

THE Nottingham Forest manager Dave Bassett may not have to search far for a replacement for Pierre Van Hooijdonk, the Dutch striker who now seems to have played his last match for the club.

Jean-Claude Darcheville, a pacy and powerful front-runner from Rennes, is on an extended loan until the end of the season, but the manner in which he took his only chance of the match in the 52nd minute suggests the move could become permanent.

Bassett, though, is hard to please. "A great goal but the rest of his performance was not that clever. Everyone played well except him but he did perk up in the second half."

functioning as a lone striker, and his chances of playing alongside last season's hero Van Hooijdonk are receding by the day.

Van Hooijdonk has gone too far and made too many enemies by criticising the other players," said Bassett. "The fans loved him last year but I am not sure they would now after all he has said."

Not even an injury-time penalty from Matthew Le Tissier could placate Jones, who remains baffled why Mark Hughes and his other summer signings have failed to get.

"We have brought so much quality here but there is a lack of confidence. Even players of Hughes's background can suffer from it and I don't know why," said the dejected Jones as he surveyed a table which showed his side bottom of the Premiership.

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حكايات الراحل



## Premiership

Everton 0 Tottenham Hotspur 1

## Gross buys time before that return tube ticket

David Lacey

**T**OTTENHAM'S victory at Everton is more likely to be Christian Gross's epitaph as Spurs manager than his salvation. If he stays at White Hart Lane it will be because Alan Sugar has had a change of heart and, when it comes to changing hearts, the Tottenham chairman does not generally give the impression of someone who prefers a softer model.

Gross, therefore, may well have ended his brief career at Spurs much as he began it nine months earlier, with a hard-working victory at Goodison Park against a poor Everton side struggling to come to terms with the basics. Again it would appear that Jürgen Klinsmann is being wooed back to Tottenham, this time as manager. The club is rapidly becoming a living embodiment of Groundhog Day.

At Goodison the absurdities and illogicalities of football management were there for all to see. A Tottenham team thick with multi-national internationals but previously thin on application suddenly rediscovered the work ethic and performed as if the last thing they wanted to see was

the back of Gross's pate boarding the Piccadilly Line for Heathrow Central.

Having led from the fifth minute, when Les Ferdinand's late run and leap to meet David Ginola's corner found the Everton defence collectively contemplating its navel, Spurs won the game with the mixture of industry, determination and no little quality which eventually kept them in the Premiership last season after a dangerous dalliance with relegation.

Two early defeats, against Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday, accompanied by poor defending and limp responses elsewhere, have had Tottenham supporters rounding on Sugar followed by reports that the chairman might be about to sell up. But chairmen never leave, just like that. What, after all, are managers for anyway?

So Gross, watched his drones become worker bees for the afternoon and said all the things he had said after Spurs won 2-0 at Everton last November. Good fighting performance, everybody focused, positive attitudes throughout, and so on and so forth.

He had, in truth, done all that a manager could be expected to do after a bad start to the season. And replacing Ian Walker, an occasional England goalkeeper, with Espen Baardsen, Spurs' 20-year-old Norwegian, proved an inspired decision.

But for Baardsen's courage and agility Duncan Ferguson would have broken Everton's duck for the new season and brought Goodison its first Premiership victory. As well as keeping out a series of Scottish headers, the Tottenham goalkeeper also tipped a rising 25-yard free-kick from Olivier Dacourt. Goodison's £3.5 million French midfielder, over the bars, did at last find the net, having forced his way past Sol Campbell and beaten Baardsen, it was only



Spur to a season... Les Ferdinand celebrates kick-starting Tottenham's campaign with his head at Goodison Park

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE KENDALL

## Match stats

	Ever	Tott
Possession	47%	53%
Attempts on target	6	5
Attempts off target	7	1
Corners	9	6
Fouls	27	23
Offsides	3	3
Bookings	2	5
Sendings-off	0	0

to find a flag up for offside. With nine minutes to go an inspired ball from Dacourt gave John Spencer the opportunity to clip a narrow-angled shot towards the far corner of the net, only for Campbell to lunge at it off the line.

By any stretch of the imagination it was an encouraging and timely victory for Tottenham which owed much not only to Baardsen but to an unusually solid performance at the back from Ramon Vega as well as a busy contribution from Darren Anderton.

Yet the frustrations of football management, especially

at Tottenham just now, were summed up by Ginola, a gifted individual who is apt to forget he is part of a team. Having laid on what proved to be the winning goal, the Frenchman seemed to be about to set up another early in the second half when he gathered Anderton's pass and outpaced Everton on the left.

As Ginola cut in towards the byline Ruel Fox took up an unmarked position in front of goal. A pass then and the contest would have been over. But Ginola decided to take the ball on and had his heels clipped by the pursuing

David Unsworth. No penalty was given, however, whereupon the outraged victim became so obsessed with his protest that he ignored the game for a few seconds. Ginola had a case, to be sure, but his reaction was thoroughly unprofessional.

Later Everton might have had a penalty when Marco Materazzi, their £2.5 million centre-back from Perugia, joined the attack and fell over Anderton's outstretched foot. This, however, did not dispel the notion that Everton have managed to acquire that footballing rarity, an Italian de-

fender who is not very good at defending. As Walter Smith, the latest manager to attempt to bring better days back to Goodison, pointed out, Everton's most pressing need is for an alternative striker to ease the demands on Ferguson. It is now 353 minutes since the team scored a league goal but on Saturday part of the problem stemmed from the poverty of the service coming from the back.

Smith's three central defenders did not operate as a unit while Alex Cleland and the promising Michael Ball rarely supported the attack in

the way wing-backs should. John Collins and Dacourt will surely give Everton's midfield the quality and variety which has been missing in recent seasons but too often on Saturday they were outnumbered and ineffective. At least Smith has time on his side as the new signings bed down but in the current football climate this is not saying much. Another couple of bad results and the buzzards of rumour and speculation will be wheeling above Goodison Park much as they have been filling the skies over White Hart Lane.



Shouting match... Gross makes a point

IAN HODGSON

## Two punch-drunk has-beens slog it out

Vivek Chaudhary talks to two sets of troubled fans who both remember better times but expect their teams to struggle again

**G**OODISON PARK played host to a gathering of troubled souls at the weekend. On three sides of the ground sat the Everton fans, in a corner were their cousins from Tottenham and on the bench sat two troubled managers praying that, for a brief while at least, they might be able to find some salvation from their suffering.

It was Christian Gross and the rest of the Tottenham contingent who had their prayers answered at the end of an encounter, compared to a meeting between two families thrown

together because of domestic difficulties.

There was a time when this match would have been an eagerly anticipated fixture. But now it is for all the wrong reasons - relegation, player unrest, fan frustration and managerial upheaval - that the neutrals' attention is drawn.

Like two has-been punch-drunk boxers surviving on past glories, Everton and Spurs scrapped rather than waged tactical battle and for the beleaguered fans, Saturday's game was worryingly like the two relegation encounters last season. Both clubs share a recent common history that nei-

ther wants and both are preparing for more of the same with the season only three games old.

"Both teams look as if they're preparing for a relegation fight," said a Tottenham fan, Hardip Mothada. "We are both big clubs and shouldn't really be in this position. But at least Everton have spent big money on some players and things might eventually start going right for them. At Tottenham, our problems are both on and off the pitch."

Similar sentiments were echoed by Evertonians. Richard Caldecott said: "We are both going to have a similar sort of season.

Neither of us is going to set the world alight and we'll both probably spend most of the season around the relegation zone. I think Walter Smith will eventually get things right but we should be grateful that we haven't got Christian Gross."

The Tottenham fans who made the trip to Merseyside had obviously decided that following last week's protests after the home defeat against Sheffield Wednesday the time had come to bury the hatchet, for 90 minutes at least.

This time around there were no boos, with fans singing Barry Manilow's 'Can't Smile Without You' as Spurs took the lead and even the central defender Ramon Vega, pilloried last week, received cheers. The

one man whose name the fans did not chant was that of Gross.

By the end, talk of sacking the board and the manager had temporarily ceased as Spurs fans savoured their first points of the season to help prepare them for the changes that are sure to follow over the coming weeks.

Despite the millions of pounds Walter Smith has spent, things are obviously getting desperate at Everton, who have yet to score a goal this season.

To give the fans a taste of what they are missing, a half-time penalty shoot-out was arranged. There was only one competitor and no goalkeeper and all five penalties were successfully converted, much to the fans' delight.

Middlesbrough's assistant manager Viv Anderson said before the game that Gazza was 10 games away from full fitness. Whether increased stamina will bring back his old acceleration remains to be seen. At the moment he compensates for lack of a top gear by lending off his opponents with both arms outstretched as if holding open a double door for a woman with a pushchair.

Derby were happy to sit back and absorb such pressure as the home side could produce. They are a tidy outfit, particularly in midfield. Lee Carlsley was outstanding throughout and the former Black Rovers player Lars Bohinen, too, had a good match.

The clever Norwegian has had a rocky time since his acrimonious departure from the City Ground, but there were signs on Saturday that, unlike King Kong, he may yet survive leaving the Forest.

Like Faustino Asprilla, Paolo Wanchope is an entertaining mix of the graceful and the gangling. One minute he is loping about doing a passable impression of a day-old calf which has just head-butted a tree stump, the next he is loping past defenders with gazelle-like elegance.

His six-minute goal was a cocktail of both elements with an added dash of comedy stirred in by Boro's defence. Bohinen's cross appeared innocuous until the keeper Mark Schwarzer elected to come charging 15 yards off his line to collect it, colliding with Wanchope and the centre-half Gianluca Festa and collapsed in a heap. The ball eventually popped clear of the resulting whirl of falling limbs. The Costa Rican reacted first, kept his balance and drove the ball beyond the lunging Colin Cooper.

And so things might have remained but for the arrival of the pre-tensile steel centre-forward.

Blackburn Rovers 1 Leicester City 0

## O'Neill feels pinch

Ian Rose

**I**T WOULD take a brave man to discuss with anything like straight-faced solemnity the long-term future of the Leicester City manager Martin O'Neill.

O'Neill, lest we forget, was the talk of the town back in June - well two cities, actually, Leicester and Liverpool. The smart money had him moving to Everton, a stage grand enough to house his ambition yet one awash with sufficient spare fivers to guarantee a meaningful overhaul of resources.

But something went wrong, quite probably O'Neill's reluctance to resign his post at Leicester before Howard Kendall had been relieved of his duties at Everton. And so, the great chance was lost. But others will come, for O'Neill is exceptionally good at what he does.

For a team assembled at no great expense, Leicester are marvellous but it is becoming increasingly difficult for O'Neill to content himself with a life drawn up to meet financial directives rather than footballing objectives.

On Saturday, as always, O'Neill praised those honest journeymen who serve him so loyally, but his face betrayed the fact that, unless he is able to introduce two or three more players of real quality,

further progress will be out of the question. That Leicester did not claim a point was criminal but O'Neill could barely find the energy to lodge a formal complaint.

The Premiership is an extremely demanding place, so you simply cannot afford to take 25 minutes off during a game as we did," he said. O'Neill was referring to Leicester's abject first-half display which was seized upon by Blackburn Rovers to settle an untidy game. The decisive blow was struck by the recalled Kevin Gallacher, who steered in smartly after good work by Gerry Flitcroft.

Like Leicester Blackburn are still in need of fine tuning but unlike Leicester they have the money to do so.

The afternoon never once hinted at fluency and was disappointing but the two teams were hardly helped by the referee Uriah Rennie, who booked seven players in a display of pedantic nit-picking. Rennie carried his gross mismanagement of affairs deep into injury-time when he chose to ignore the fact that Blackburn's Tim Sherwood walked over Leicester's Steve Walsh as they awaited a Garry Parker throw-in. Of course it was a penalty but, as he had totally ruined the game, there was never any chance that Rennie would see fit to make Leicester's day.

Wimbledon 1 Leeds United 1

## Kinnear finds new grounds for complaint

Adam Sills

**W**IMBLEDON remain unbeatable on the pitch but the Leeds fans are restless and the sweetest victory for Joe Kinnear would be to scratch away their seven-year itch of ground-sharing with Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.

A hard-fought draw against Leeds United on Saturday did little to quell the Wimbledon manager's frustration at the lack of help from Merton Borough Council to re-house his team.

"It's a nice stadium but I wish it were ours. I wish the borough would put their hand in their pocket and spend a few quid," Kinnear said. "It doesn't seem to matter who gets into power, whether it's the Conservatives or the next mob, still nothing happens. I just don't know what we've done wrong not to deserve our own stadium."

Irish Football Association eyes did not smile at a plan for the Dons to move to Dublin, a proposal to take over Wimbledon greyhound track went to the dogs and Plough Lane, though it still belongs

to the club, is redundant as a stadium.

A return to the Dons' spiritual home on the Lane would thrill the fans but a place to call home is the top priority and a site near Gatwick Airport in Horley seems to hold the most promise.

"We get on this pitch to train if we're lucky twice a year," Kinnear said. "Last year we weren't allowed to use it at all. If we owned a stadium and a pitch we could train on it when it suited us. You can practice set plays and corner kicks and the players can get to know the

shape and contours of the pitch," knowledge sadly lacking in the first half on Saturday when only the agility of the Dons' goalkeeper Neil Sullivan kept Leeds at bay.

If Leeds achieve their reported aims of signing Tottenham's Darren Anderton and Newcastle's German midfielder Dietmar Hamann they could be title contenders. Wimbledon are more concerned about the challenge from the leafy suburbs of Merton and Wimbledon, for the tennis championships in SW19 do not help their cause. "God knows how much the borough

spends on tennis," Kinnear said. "It's a fortune for about a month a year. I don't know if any of that tennis mob has ever won the FA Cup."

On this showing silverware will be the last thing on Wimbledon's minds come May and it always looked likely that Leeds would end their run of not scoring on their league trips to Wimbledon since September 1995. The goal that came was worth the wait, Lee Bowyer latching on to a clearance to volley high past Sullivan. Michael Hughes, not to be outdone, struck a 25-yard beamer to level things.

Coventry City 0 West Ham United 0

## Ferdinand the star pupil in an Academy teaching its own lessons in the art of defence

Ian Maitland

**P**REMIERSHIP opponents had better brace themselves. The Irons have discovered steel. Unlike some West Ham sides of the past, Harry Redknapp's team refuses to fade and die.

West Ham have not conceded a goal in their opening three games and at Highfield Road all the eye-catching displays were from defenders, from the classy Frenchman Jean-Cyric Walleme, beginning his first Premiership

game for Coventry, to West Ham's Chilean World Cup debutant Javier Margas.

It was an unrelentingly physical game in which both goalkeepers made excellent stops from the few chances that came either sides way. Magnus Hedman, the Swede expected to face Glenn Hoddle's England on Saturday, made the most telling contribution when his reflex save denied West Ham's Ian Wright by stopping his point-blank header after 27 minutes. Six players were booked, four from West Ham, and

while Redknapp describes Margas as a "tough nut", Neil Ruddock, newly arrived after a loan spell at QPR, is no soft centre either. Ruddock was one of those yellow-carded when, just after the break, he jumped to challenge Dion Dublin; the sound of his forearm connecting with the striker's face could be heard in the top of the stand.

But Redknapp denies that the Academy has suddenly changed into Bash Street. He said: "We took the game to them in the first half and I don't believe we have

changed our style. We're continuing to play as we did last season with two wing-backs who are really wingers and the goals will come. Margas was outstanding and it was not a dirty game and the bookings were silly. Harrison's being particularly harsh."

Redknapp believes his team could qualify for Europe this season after being edged out by Aston Villa when they finished eighth last May. Along with a rugged defence he has a creative midfield in which the Israeli Eyal Berkovic

made a series of penetrating runs.

Wright and John Harrison, renewing their Arsenal partnership up front, may eventually click but Wright cannot go on for ever and Harrison, in a ponderous display, did not look match-fit.

Coventry themselves have European pretensions. They hope to move to a new stadium, The Arena, by 2002 and Gordon Strachan is laying solid team foundations at Highfield Road. There is a buoyancy unmatched since the days of Ernie Hunt and

Wille Carr, and Walleme, who refused to wait for France to win the World Cup as a protest against no players from his Lens team being in the squad, is a real find.

He was overshadowed, though, by his opposite number Rio Ferdinand but the 19-year-old's groin injury makes him doubtful for England next weekend.

"He is a frightening talent, a real Rolls-Royce of a player," enthused Redknapp. A Rolls-Royce spluttering before autumn will be a worry to Hoddle, though.

Middlesbrough 1 Derby County 1

## Ricard's power spares Boro's blushes

Harry Pearson  
sees Teesside  
discover a new hero

**B**ACK in the Twenties Middlesbrough fielded a defender, Jack Marshall, of such strapping physique and durability that the press nicknamed him the Ferro-Concrete Full-back. At the Riverside Stadium on Saturday there were signs that Boro might have uncovered the Scot's latter-day attacking equivalent.

The Colombian striker Hamilton Ricard, bought last season from Deportivo Cali, has the bulging shoulders of a bull buffalo and legs so chunky they make Stuart Pearce's thunder thighs look like Twiglets.

Introduced at half-time, the 24-year-old equalised with his first touch, a downward header from Paul Merson's right-wing cross, and almost added a second when he brushed a couple of Derby defenders aside like matchwood only to see the excellent Russell Hoult smother his toe-poked shot.

The big man's robust intervention roused both teams and the game ended with a flurry of action that had seemed inconceivable during a first half that matched the surname of County's German defender Stefan Schnoor.

That the opening period was so momentous owed much to the amount of possession enjoyed by Paul Gascoigne. The former England midfielder still has his old turns and slick footwork but allowed to dictate the pace of the game these days he usually opts for a leisurely trundle. His occasional attempts to generate something more lively by running at a Derby defence, ably marshalled by Igor Stimac, invariably came to naught.

Middlesbrough's assistant manager Viv Anderson said before the game that Gazza was 10 games away from full fitness. Whether increased stamina will bring back his old acceleration remains to be seen. At the moment he compensates for lack of a top gear by lending off his opponents with both arms outstretched as if holding open a double door for a woman with a pushchair.

Derby were happy to sit back and absorb such pressure as the home side could produce. They are a tidy outfit, particularly in midfield. Lee Carlsley was outstanding throughout and the former Black Rovers player Lars Bohinen, too, had a good match.

The clever Norwegian has had a rocky time since his acrimonious departure from the City Ground, but there were signs on Saturday that, unlike King Kong, he may yet survive leaving the Forest.

Like Faustino Asprilla, Paolo Wanchope is an entertaining mix of the graceful and the gangling. One minute he is loping about doing a passable impression of a day-old calf which has just head-butted a tree stump, the next he is loping past defenders with gazelle-like elegance.

His six-minute goal was a cocktail of both elements with an added dash of comedy stirred in by Boro's defence. Bohinen's cross appeared innocuous until the keeper Mark Schwarzer elected to come charging 15 yards off his line to collect it, colliding with Wanchope and the centre-half Gianluca Festa and collapsed in a heap. The ball eventually popped clear of the resulting whirl of falling limbs. The Costa Rican reacted first, kept his balance and drove the ball beyond the lunging Colin Cooper.

And so things might have remained but for the arrival of the pre-tensile steel centre-forward.



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## the engineer

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**Written applications (no agencies please) to:** *Barry Shaw, Editor, The Chemical Engineer, 105-107 Railway Terrace, Rugby CV21 3JG, by 14 September*

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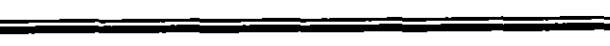
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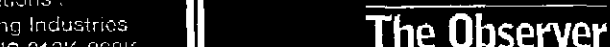
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	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	4	7
Aston Villa	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	3	7	7
Nottm Forest	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	1	6
Charlton	3	1	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	5	5	5
Wimbledon	3	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	2	5	5
Arsenal	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	5
Leeds	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	5	5
West Ham	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5
Leicester	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	4
Coventry	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	4
Blackburn	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	4
Sheff Wed	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	3
Derby	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	3
Tottenham	3	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	2	3	-4	3
Man Utd	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Middlesbrough	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	2
Newcastle	3	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	1	1	-3	2	2
Chelsea	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	-2	-1	1
Everton	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	-2	-3	1
Southampton	3	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	-5	-7	0

**Arsenal** (3-0) Charlton 3-0 (P. D. Jones, 20, 25, 30). Arsenal (3-0) Charlton 3-0 (P. D. Jones, 20, 25, 30). Arsenal (3-0) Charlton 3-0 (P. D. Jones, 20, 25, 30).

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**Derby** (3-0) Tottenham 3-0 (P. D. Jones, 20, 25, 30). Derby (3-0) Tottenham 3-0 (P. D. Jones, 20, 25, 30). Derby (3-0) Tottenham 3-0 (P. D. Jones, 20, 25, 30).

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## CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Reading	5	0	0	5	15	2	15	0	0	15	2	13	13
Stamford	5	0	0	5	15	2	15	0	0	15	2	13	13
Stamford	5	0	0	5	15	2	15	0	0	15	2	13	13
Stamford	5	0	0	5	15	2	15	0	0	15	2	13	13
Stamford	5	0	0	5	15	2	15	0	0	15	2	13	13

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7

## RYMAN PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7

## DR MARTENS PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7
Walsley	3	2	1	0	4	1	7	0	0	4	1	7	7

## FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	4	7
Aston Villa	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	3	7	7
Nottm Forest	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	1	6
Charlton	3	1	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	5	5	5
Wimbledon	3	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	2	5	5
Arsenal	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	5
Leeds	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	5	5
West Ham	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5
Leicester	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	4
Coventry	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	4
Blackburn	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	4
Sheff Wed	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	3
Derby	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	3
Tottenham	3	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	2	3	-4	3
Man Utd	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Middlesbrough	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	2
Newcastle	3	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	1	1	-3	2	2
Chelsea	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	-2	-1	1
Everton	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	-2	-3	1
Southampton	3	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	-5	-7	0

## FOOTBALL PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	4	7
Aston Villa	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	3	7	7
Nottm Forest	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	1	6
Charlton	3	1	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	5	5	5
Wimbledon	3	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	2	5	5
Arsenal	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	5
Leeds	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	5	5
West Ham	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5
Leicester	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	4
Coventry	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	4
Blackburn	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	4
Sheff Wed	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	3
Derby	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	3
Tottenham	3	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	2	3	-4	3
Man Utd	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Middlesbrough	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	2
Newcastle	3	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	1	1	-3	2	2
Chelsea	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	-2	-1	1
Everton	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	-2	-3	1
Southampton	3	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	-5	-7	0

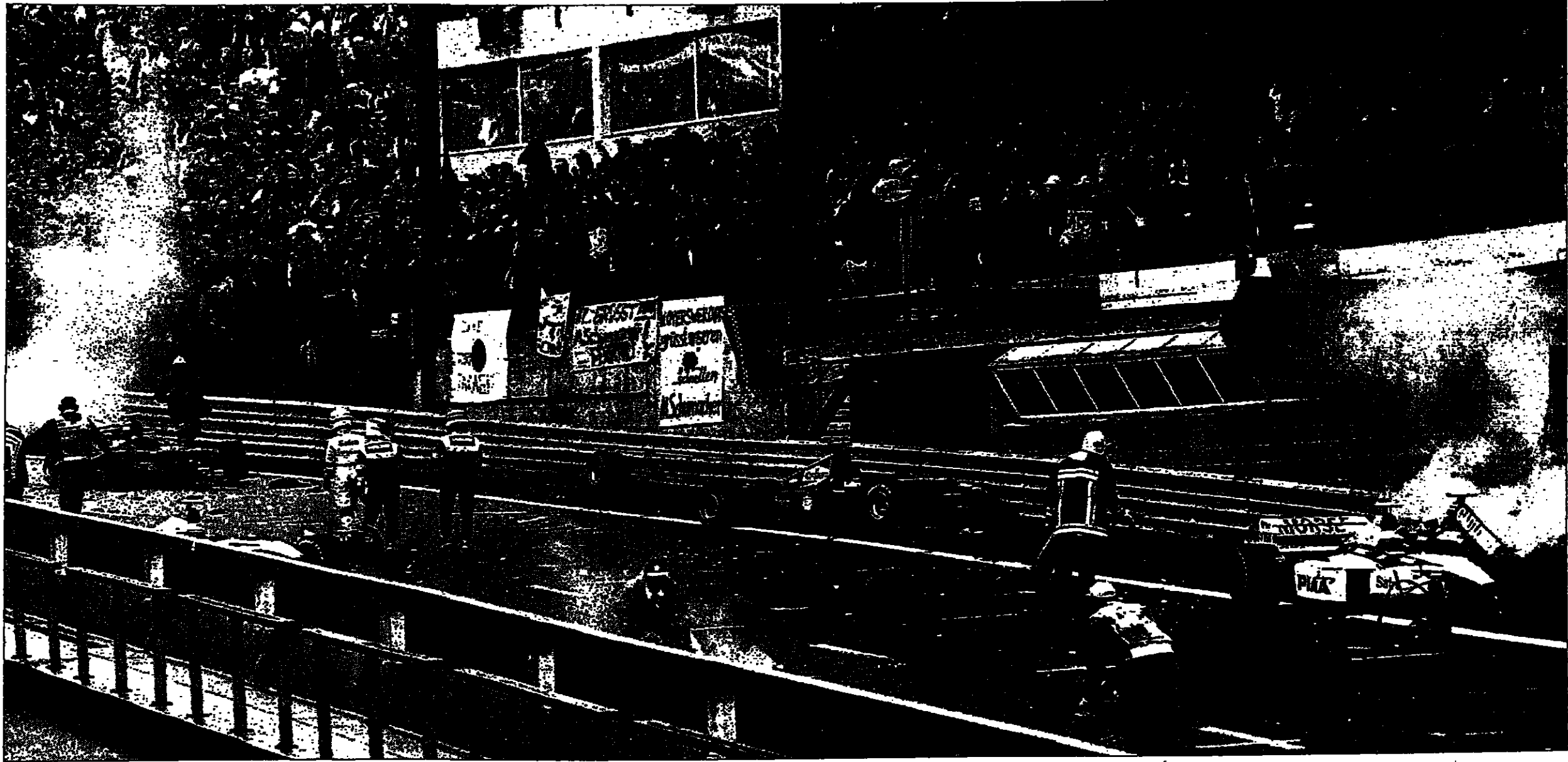
## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	4	7
Aston Villa	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	3	7	7
Nottm Forest	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	1	6
Charlton	3	1	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	5	5	5
Wimbledon	3	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	2	5	5
Arsenal	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	5
Leeds	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	5	5
West Ham	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5
Leicester	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	4
Coventry	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	4
Blackburn	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	4
Sheff Wed	3	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	3
Derby	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	3
Tottenham	3	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	2	3	-4	3
Man Utd	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Middlesbrough	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	2
Newcastle	3	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	1	1	-3	2	2
Chelsea	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	-2	-1	1
Everton	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	-2	-3	1
Southampton	3	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	-5	-7	0

## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	4	7
Aston Villa	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	3	7	7
Nottm Forest	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	1	6
Charlton	3	1	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	5	5	5
Wimbledon	3	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	2	5	5
Arsenal	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	5	5
Leeds	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	5	5
West Ham	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5
Leicester	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	4
Coventry	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	5	4
Blackburn	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	5	4
Sheff Wed	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sheff Utd	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Derby	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Millwall	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
QPR	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sheff F	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Blackpool	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Don Rovers	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Walsley	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0</	





# Schumacher curses Hill's rain dance

Torrential conditions looked to have played into the German driver's hands — until a controversial accident gave Damon Hill a long-awaited victory. **Alan Henry** reports from Spa

**T**HE last time Damon Hill stood on the top step of a grand prix podium, he was celebrating not just a race win but victory in the drivers' world championship. Much has happened to Hill in Formula One — most of it unhappy — since that memorable 1996 Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka. Yesterday, the Belgian rain washed away the pain of nearly two barren seasons.

Hill's controlled victory by less than a second from his German team-mate Ralf Schumacher on one of the calendar's most challenging circuits, was even sweeter for his Jordan team — and celebrated accordingly — having taken 127 grands prix over eight seasons to arrive.

Yet Hill was fortunate to survive an horrendous multi-car pile-up coming out of the first-corner hairpin, which caused the race to be stopped at the end of the opening lap.

"All I could see was what looked like a Ferrari and Coulthard's McLaren touching as we came out of La Source," Hill said. "Then Coulthard got away slightly, there was a lot of spray, and the next thing I knew he'd hit the wall on the right and was coming back across the track along with a bouncing wheel. I was heading right for him so I just had to go for it and got through without hitting a thing."

Behind Hill, cars pinballed in all directions with wheels and debris flying dangerously close to the front row of the grandstand. After the dust and debris settled 12 cars —

the McLaren of Coulthard, Eddie Irvine's Ferrari, Alexander Wurz's Benetton, Johnny Herbert's Sauber, the Prosts of Jarno Trulli and Olivier Panis, the Tyrrells of Tamasosuke Takagi and Ricardo Rosset, the Arrows of Mika Salo and Pedro Diniz, Shinji Nakano's Minardi and Rubens Barrichello's Stewart — lay scattered across the track. Only later did it become clear that, although Coulthard and Irvine had touched out of the corner, the Scot actually lost control of his McLaren after hitting a drain cover on the track.

With as many spare cars pressed into action as possible, only Panis, Salo, Rosset and Barrichello — who complained of an injured elbow — failed to make the restart.

This time it was the other McLaren — that of the championship leader Mika Hakkinen — which spun out of the hairpin and into retirement. The stage was set for Michael Schumacher to take the title lead, and his failure to do so sparked controversial scenes in the paddock.

Hill's erstwhile rival had been comfortably ahead when his Ferrari crashed into the back of Coulthard's McLaren as he attempted to lap it. The German three-wheeled back to the pits and out of the race, leaving from his damaged car in a fit of rage. He stormed down to the McLaren garage, where his mechanics had to restrain him from lashing out at Coulthard, whom he accused of causing the accident.

"Are you trying to kill me?" shouted Schumacher as he was dragged away. The double world champion was called to

the stewards immediately after the race to account for his unruly behaviour, while Coulthard's car — which had lost its rear wing in the impact — was duly repaired and resumed the race to finish a distant seventh.

The stewards eventually dismissed the incident as a racing accident with no sanction being taken against either driver. Coulthard refused to be intimidated by Schumacher's histrionics. "Coming into the pits and asking me whether I was trying to kill him is totally unacceptable," he said. "I can't find words to describe how disappointed I am in Michael as a man that he could have still been in that state after driving back to the pits."

"It was disgusting behaviour. If he still feels the same when he has calmed down I have no further interest in discussing the matter with him." Hill had led the restarted race until lap nine, when Schumacher outbraked him neatly into the tight chicane just before the pits. Thereafter the acknowledged Spa ace edged away from the Jordan, apparently on course to take the championship lead for the first time this season with what would have been a fifth win on this circuit, matching the record established by Ayrton Senna.

Schumacher kept his lead through a single refuelling stop at the end of lap 16 when his Goodyear intermediate tyres were changed for full wets as the rain intensified. Hill came in on the same lap and resumed 22 seconds behind the Ferrari, an advantage which Schumacher extended to 37.7 seconds

Car wars... the first-lap destruction, above, was triggered by Coulthard, below, hitting a drain cover. Michael Schumacher's Ferrari, above right, lost a front wheel after hitting Coulthard's car, prompting some serious road rage from the German. Opposite: Eddie Jordan lapped up his team's first grand prix win with Hill who, right and below, led at the restart after Hakkinen's McLaren expired

PHOTOGRAPHS: ROBERT WANDEN; SPIES: MICHAEL COOPER, PETER DE JONGE, NATHALIE KOLLUSCHER

before colliding with Coulthard. Quite why Schumacher had such a huge advantage was a mystery which will doubtless be debated by the Ferrari on a segment in the run-up to their home grand prix at Monza in a fortnight. Even more remarkably, the

Ferrari driver was scheduled to make a second routine refuelling stop the next time round.

The incident left Hill in front of his team-mate Ralf Schumacher at the head of the field. The young German driver is no respecter of reputations and was clearly anxious to score the first victory of his short Formula One career, closing slightly on Hill as the race went into its closing stages.

With Jean Alesi's Sauber coming up hard in third place, both Jordan drivers knew they had to press on as hard as possible, but with eight laps to go, Schumacher was informed over the radio that he should hold second place and not challenge Hill any further.

There must have been times over the past two seasons, since leaving Williams, when Hill must have wondered if he would ever win again. Now he is buoyant and upbeat, determined to build on this result to achieve more success for Jordan.

"I think we can be strong at Monza," he predicted, "but for now I just want to go out and celebrate."



## Belgian Grand Prix results

Round 13

	<b>1</b> Damon Hill (Britain)	1:43.47.407
	<b>2</b> Ralf Schumacher (Germany)	0.532sec behind
	<b>3</b> Jean Alesi (France)	+7.240sec
	<b>4</b> Michael Schumacher (Germany)	+32.242
	<b>5</b> Pedro Diniz (Brazil)	+51.582
	<b>6</b> Eddie Irvine (Ireland)	2 laps behind

### Other finishers

7. Olivier Panis (France) 8. Mika Salo (Finland) 9. Shinji Nakano (Japan) 10. Ricardo Rosset (Brazil) 11. Alexander Wurz (Austria) 12. Johnny Herbert (Britain) 13. Tamasosuke Takagi (Japan) 14. Jarno Trulli (Italy) 15. Rubens Barrichello (Brazil) 16. Mika Hakkinen (Finland) 17. Mark Blundell (Britain) 18. Nick Heidfeld (Germany) 19. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 20. Andrea Montermini (Italy) 21. Luca Badoer (Italy) 22. Christian Klien (Austria) 23. Bernd Schneider (Germany) 24. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 25. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 26. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 27. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 28. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 29. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 30. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands)

### Not classified

31. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 32. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 33. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 34. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 35. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 36. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 37. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 38. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 39. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 40. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands)

### Did not start

41. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 42. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 43. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 44. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 45. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 46. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 47. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 48. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 49. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 50. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands)

### Drivers' championship

1. Michael Schumacher (Germany) 2. Damon Hill (Britain) 3. Eddie Irvine (Ireland) 4. Jean Alesi (France) 5. Mika Salo (Finland) 6. Pedro Diniz (Brazil) 7. Olivier Panis (France) 8. Mika Hakkinen (Finland) 9. Shinji Nakano (Japan) 10. Ricardo Rosset (Brazil) 11. Alexander Wurz (Austria) 12. Johnny Herbert (Britain) 13. Tamasosuke Takagi (Japan) 14. Jarno Trulli (Italy) 15. Rubens Barrichello (Brazil) 16. Mika Salo (Finland) 17. Mark Blundell (Britain) 18. Nick Heidfeld (Germany) 19. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 20. Andrea Montermini (Italy) 21. Luca Badoer (Italy) 22. Christian Klien (Austria) 23. Bernd Schneider (Germany) 24. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 25. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 26. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 27. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 28. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 29. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands) 30. Jos Verstappen (Netherlands)

### Constructors' championship

1. Ferrari 2. Jordan 3. Benetton 4. Williams 5. McLaren 6. Sauber 7. Arrows 8. Stewart 9. Prost 10. Tyrrell 11. Minardi 12. Agip 13. Castrol 14. Elf 15. Shell 16. Mobil 17. Esso 18. Agip 19. Castrol 20. Elf 21. Shell 22. Mobil 23. Esso 24. Agip 25. Castrol 26. Elf 27. Shell 28. Mobil 29. Esso 30. Agip



## Way back when

**Frank Keating** recalls the day when the thought of champagne went straight to Sobers' head

Six out of six... the style that sent Nash's last ball down St Helen's Avenue, to be retrieved the morning after

**B**AISMAN and non-parasol Sir Garfield Sobers remembers it as a significant moment in winning a bet for six bottles of champagne. Malcolm Nash remains content that those few minutes ensured his name for posterity.

The fielding captain Tony Lewis recalls: "It wasn't slogging but scientific hitting, with every movement working in harmony." The Wisden of 1969 recorded: "Somehow one sensed that something extraordinary was going to happen when Sobers sauntered to the wicket." Certainly the world said: "Wow!"

It happened 30 years ago today - at around 5.10 on Saturday August 31, 1968, at St Helen's alongside Swansea Bay. Yorkshire had already won the County Championship but Nottinghamshire and Glamorgan were playing seriously for place-money, so the ancient arena was Bank Holiday-full, not least through the presence of Sobers, Nottinghamshire's West Indies captain in his first championship summer.

During England's tour of the Caribbean the previous winter, Sobers had struck a cheerleader bet — "Half a case of the best bubbly" — with

Bumty, the wife of the England manager Les Ames, that his new Trent Bridge side, one from bottom in 1967, would finish in the top four. At Swansea that August day, Notts lay fifth, Glamorgan third.

Sobers won the toss and the opener Brian Bolus had typically cashed in with 140 by tea. Nash was Glamorgan's most dangerous new-ball bowler, medium-fast over-the-wicket left-armers. He would end up with almost 1,000 first-class wickets.

That summer Nash had been impressed by the emergence for England of Kent's

young Derek Underwood, nippy and accurate left-arm spinners from round the wicket, and he had been experimenting with this more refined-in approach when he returned for a second or third spell with the older ball.

That option had worked well that Saturday afternoon, after Bolus and Bob "Knocker" White had put on 150 for the first wicket. Soon after tea Nottinghamshire were just past 300 and Nash had taken four of the five wickets to fall. At the fall of the fifth, when Nash bowled Deryck Murray for a duck, Sobers came down the long

pavilion staircase, his famous feline tread suggesting particular urgency. He was intent on a flurry of runs for a declaration.

At the seaside end of the ground, high in the rugby stand, two television cameras from BBC Wales had been transmitting throughout the day. The commentator was Wilf Wooller, Glamorgan's eminence and club secretary. Live coverage had ended at tea.

Pictures were still black and white but videotape recording had just been invented, so the cameraman remained at his post for the possible odd snippet for use





## Crash threat to Spa's future

**T**HERE is a tradition of spectacular first-lap accidents in Formula One, perhaps the most celebrated having occurred here during the 1966 Belgian Grand Prix.

That race — over the old 8.7-mile Spa circuit — started like yesterday's in very wet weather: a torrential shower moved across the pine forests of southern Belgium with devastating effect. On the opening lap the pack ran into a wall of rain as they rounded a flat-out downhill right-hander, triggering a series of accidents. The most serious left Jackie Stewart trapped in the cockpit of his BRM in the courtyard of a woodcutter's cottage, three ribs broken and fuel pumping out all over his overalls.

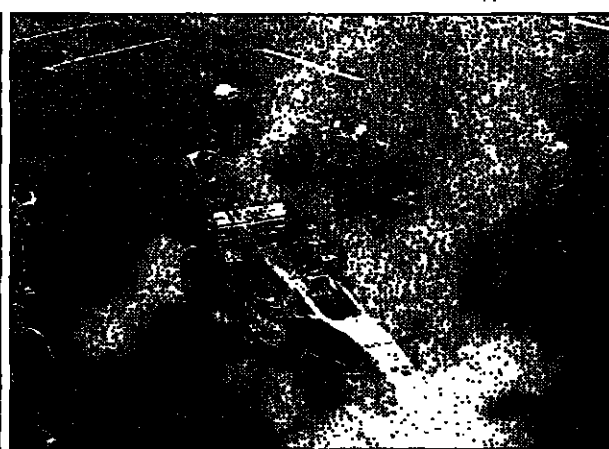
The accident highlighted the dangers of running a race on a circuit where it can be bone dry at the start/finish line and soaking wet on the opposite side of the circuit. After the 1970 race it was decided to abandon the original circuit and the Belgian Grand Prix did not return here for 13 years, by which time the track's length had been reduced to 4.3 miles.

David Coulthard was one of many drivers who believed that yesterday's race should have been started behind the safety car at reduced speed, allowing the track to dry out slightly over the first few laps. The technique was employed in last year's race which went off without any drama.

"At various points in the race there were definitely unsafe racing conditions," Coulthard said. "The level of spray made it very difficult and with the speeds we do up the hill from Blanchimont back towards the pits — around 170mph — you are in a position where you are putting a lot of trust in the other drivers."

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## Duel for the crown

**James Mitchell** assesses how the battle for the world drivers' title is going to unfold

**Italian Grand Prix** Monza, September 13 Ferrari have traditionally produced a good performance at their home race even in years when they are uncompetitive. But this year it does not look good for Michael Schumacher, who is predicting a "subdued" race for the Italian team at the historic, high-speed Monza autodrome. Monza is one of the tracks at which teams are allowed to test before race weekends, and both times they have, Ferrari have struggled, lagging behind not only McLaren but also Williams. McLaren, by contrast, can expect to dominate. The most

likely result is a one-two for Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard and a third place at best for Schumacher.

**Luxembourg Grand Prix** Nürburgring, September 27 McLaren and Ferrari should be closely matched on Schumacher's home turf — this race takes place under a flag of convenience on the Nürburgring in the Eifel mountains of Germany. It is a technical circuit that in theory should play slightly to the superiority of McLaren's car, but hyped up for a title showdown Schumacher may be able to make up the difference. The weather may also help Ferrari. Just as at Spa, rain is always a possibility at the Nürburgring. If so, Schumacher will be the man to beat.

**Japanese Grand Prix** Suzuka, November 1 Mika Hakkinen is one of the great

drivers' circuits and its long, fast, sweeping bends should favour McLaren's superior aerodynamics. That is an exact replica of 1997, when Williams were cast in the place of McLaren and their driver Jacques Villeneuve qualified on pole ahead of Schumacher. It is therefore almost impossible to predict who could win in Japan, where the weather could be hot and sultry or pouring with rain.

**The verdict** Mika Hakkinen will win the championship for McLaren. He will win in Monza thanks to a car advantage, and that will stretch his lead to more than 10 points — one victory — with just two races to go. After that, if he cannot win from the front, he should have enough of a margin to drive for points and secure the title in the last race.

Damon Hill reckons: "Mika Hakkinen is going to win the title

because he's seven points ahead and he is in what I think is the best car. But everything can change within a very short space of time."

Nevertheless, this season Schumacher has cemented his status as the best driver in the world, overcoming a disadvantage in machinery to mount Ferrari's most convincing title challenge in nearly 20 years.

Jackie Stewart, a three-time World Champion and now in charge of his own team, regards Schumacher's efforts as nothing short of "heroic" as he has constantly struggled to keep up. And in the view of David Richards, Benetton's managing director: "A fair conclusion might be that Michael Schumacher winning the drivers' championship and McLaren the constructors' title is the best of both worlds."

rolled again at the close of play when Sober and Nash walked across the field for an interview. "I suppose I'm a bit tired," said Sober with a laugh, "but it is nice that Malcolm is cheerful about it, too."

In 1985 in Bombay, India's (and sometime Glamorgan's) all-rounder Ravi Shastri equalled Sober's 1968 record that had helped ensure Notts' fourth place in the championship. And Mrs Ames's immediate dispatch of champagne from Canterbury to Trent Bridge.

Six bottles — and of a vintage variety, of course.

## PBs at Tottenham and a kick in the TEETH for Glenn

### FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

**D**OCTORS and nurses traditionally derive solace and some amusement by writing acronyms such as PIB on a patient's records to signify someone who is a pain in the bum.

There is no reason why this should not catch on in football after a black humour is used across the world to cope with pain and suffering. Medics, soldiers, aid workers and war correspondents often resort to in-jokes and barbed references to keep their emotional distance from events that might otherwise engulf them. So why shouldn't Tottenham supporters?

White Hart Lane regulars have been turning up for years to watch the kind of player known as a THEFT (Too Hopeless Even For Tottenham). This expression should not be confused with daylight robbery which is what other clubs get away with when they sell these players to Spurs at impressively inflated prices.

Tottenham fans tend to tolerate news of success in the club with a shrug, but Tottenham supporters, who for so many years have been LID (Long-suffering In Defeat), are going to be SAD (Staying Away In Droves).

For all that, they do not hold the sole franchise on aggression and despair. Supporters of several other clubs are familiar with CRAPE players (Can't Run And Panic Easily). The Crape made his name in defence in West Ham sides of the Seventies

ABBA (Anyone But Bloody Arsenal).

In medical circles, TATT (Tired All The Time) stands for the kind of patient who causes a GP's heart to sink by making repeated surgery visits without having anything specifically wrong with them. At White Hart Lane it stands for what manager after manager has talked on the subject of the club's ambitions: Tripe All The Time.

The medical notes of someone with a dwindling but tenacious grip on life sometimes contain the acronym TFBUNDY (Totally F\*\*\*ed But Unfortunately Not Dead Yet). This season, thanks to Christian Gross, Tottenham fans quickly became familiar with TUBUNGY (Totally Useless But Unfortunately Not Gone Yet).

Increasingly the job of managing Spurs is known as an EKWOIT (Even Kinnear Won't Take It). Mystified as to why the former Atletico Madrid coach Raddy Antic actually volunteered to take over from Gross, the fans are asking WISHSOD (Why Is He SO Desperate) and keeping their fingers crossed that the present crisis will not end with the arrival of another BUCOS (Bald Unknown Creepy Unintelligible Swiss).

They are now so keen for someone to come in, invest insane amounts of money and build the club into one of the automatic choices for the European Super League that the word on the terraces is WETBAWESARM (We Take Back Anything We Ever Said About Rupert Murdoch). Otherwise Tottenham supporters, who for so many years have been LID (Long-suffering In Defeat), are going to be SAD (Staying Away In Droves).

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The Crape made his name in defence in West Ham sides of the Seventies

but is now threatening to make a comeback at Chelsea. He should not be confused with the CRAAP (Can't Run And Usually Plastered) who can often be spotted in a Bryan Robson side.

Neither acronym should be confused with CRAAP, an adjective used around Old Trafford to describe £10 million Dutchmen who look like telegraph poles, turn like tractors and get injured two weeks into the season.

Most sides have a PAWBUNS (Passes Well But Never Scores); the prototype being Stuart Ripley. They could also have a DROWNE (Dressing Room Moaner Par Excellence). MEWNOB (Means Well, NO Brain) is preferable to NOBNOB (NO Bottle, NO Brain), not to mention FOBNOB (Foreign Overpaid Bitch, NO Brain). NIBNOB (Nice Barnet, NO Brain) should not be confused with LOBNOBS (Lots Of Bottle, NO Ball Skills), but both of them will have painful experiences when playing opposite the BOVVER (BOne-headed, Violent, Very Easily Riled).

A FOAL is a player who Falls Over A Lot, which is a very useful attribute if it leads to extra penalty awards, but less so if it is simply due to a DORK (Dodgey Right Knee) when, if a member of the England squad, he may find himself being POTI, STREWED (Froed To Seek Treatment With Eileen Drewery).

DADY, of course, is Doing A Dwight Yorke, which means getting tapped by a bigger club and playing badly in order to encourage your current manager to flog you.

Lastly, one of the best-known medical acronyms is TEETH (Tried Everything Else, Try Homeopathy). A rumour doing the rounds is that TEETH has been found on a Football Association memo, dated 1996, on the subject of replacing Terry Venables as England manager. It stands for Tried Everyone Else, Try Hoddle.

## Spracken's women going backwards at full speed

### CENTRE STAGE

Pete Nichols

**R**OWING is unique as the only sport in which the definition of success is having everyone else in front of you. This curious condition must suit the British psyche, because over the years rowing is a sport at which we have been rather good.

Until recently, though, this has not been true of the women's boats which have generally found far too many crews behind them; that is, very few in front. This was never more so than in Atlanta where, from six races, Britain came away with a single medal in the distaff side and medals were a distant dream.

Mike Spracken had only coached one woman before starting as Britain's new women's coach in January 1997. But as the women's question was Canada's Silken Laumann, and he had taken her to a world single sculls title in 1991, it suggested that his methods were not ineffectual.

And prior to that, of course, he had guided Steve Redgrave and Andy Holmes to Olympic gold, so it surprised few when, within eight months of his appointment, a transformation had taken place.

At last summer's world championships at Aliguebelette in France seven British women's crews reached finals and four medals were won, a perfect division of spoils with the men who also collected four. Contrast this with British athletics, where the ratio of success at the European Championships in Budapest was 8:1 to the men.

Spracken was duly rewarded with the National Coaching Foundation's Coach of the Year accolade and the British women enter this year's world championships, which start in Cologne on Sunday, with their expectations up several notches.

In the coxless pair, Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop might well have upped the medal count last summer in France. "It's easy with hindsight, but silver or bronze was there for the taking," said Blackie.

But Bishop caught flu and could not row before Blackie



In harmony... Blackie and Bishop PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE HENMITT

succumbed to the same virus the day after the competition ended. Francesca Zino stepped out of the eight to join Blackie in a substitute pairing, but losing your established partner is like tap-dancing without the tape; you tend not to make as much noise. They duly failed to qualify for the final.

This season has been different. They have not exactly carried all before them but they have carried a lot. In Munich and at Hazewinkel in Belgium, World Cup victories gave them a comfortable cushion for the overall World Cup title. They came to the final round at Lucerne "knackered" and were swamped by the Canadians Emma Robinson and Allison Korn, the reigning world champions. But fourth place still gave them the title; the only British crew to wear World Cup laurels this summer.

Blackie, 31, and Bishop, 26, have been in the sport for a while, graduating from the eight to the pair. Yet having Spracken on hand has been the first time they can claim to have had a paid coach as their adviser; with the National Lottery funding for the first time they can also call themselves professionals and mean it.

Previously Blackie had worked as a primary school teacher and then a part-time worker at the Amateur Rowing Association. "Having the Lottery recognition endorses it, endorses the work you have to put in," said Bishop.

All the money in the world, though, could not prepare them fully for Korn and Robinson. At Aliguebelette the Canadians won the coxless pairs title with the greatest margin

of any crew in the championships and, at Lucerne last month, were seven seconds ahead of the Brits by the 1000 metres halfway mark.

Rounding off their preparations last week at a 10-day training camp at Varese in northern Italy, Blackie and Bishop were underlined by the prospect. "We have one goal in mind and that goal is to win it," said Blackie.

Self-belief is a crucial element in the new equation; it seems to permeate through the division of the sport which is growing as fast as any in Britain. "There are a few dinosaurs left who have a problem with it," added Blackie. "But this is the ideal non-contact team sport and it appeals to women."

At Henley even the dinosaurs relented and opened the cluttered Little Waterway to a women's eight competition between Great Britain, Canada, Australia and the United States. The competition was thrilling. Britain beat Canada by a foot in the semi-finals and lost to the Americans by one third of a boat in the final. There will be no going back now.

If they win in Cologne, Blackie and Bishop will immediately be established as favourites for the Olympics in Sydney. They will not discuss that issue, though. To do so means you have stopped concentrating on the process and have begun thinking of the rewards. When you enter the bubble of concentration, there must be no distractions.

That is why going backwards can sometimes help. That way you cannot see the winning post.







## Golf

## Early-bird Monty catches his form

Gordon Richardson sees the Scot get up with the lark at the BMW Open in Munich in an attempt to beat a bad spell

GERMANY was treated to the full Monty again in yesterday's BMW International final round here but spectators had to be up with the lark to witness the second coming.

Colin Montgomerie, left kicking his heels after missing his third ball, cut in five European outings, offered his services as a marker to the young English professional David Tappin, a tailender, to make up an even number in the field of 66.

Up at 5.15am and off at 7.15am, Europe's No. 1 for the last five years strolled round in 66 to recharge his flagging batteries before the Ryder Cup qualifying process at this week's Masters in Switzerland.

The man who banked more than \$5 million prize money from 1993 to 1997, has added a further \$442,000 this term despite his recent mini-slump in which he also failed to get through the Open Championship and the European Open — his worst spell for seven years.

He admitted: "While I was glad to help out David — actually he might have been a little intimidated because he

shot 78 — I had another purpose in offering to play and that was to get my confidence back.

"It was awfully early to get up to play golf. I pushed one way right at the first and boyed the second when I still wasn't awake and I am not planning any more early rises.

"But I then made seven birdies and was a couple of inches away from eagling the last for a 65. It was very beneficial and I'll drive to Switzerland now to link up with my family, feeling good about my game."

Montgomerie required only 30 putts — 11 fewer than his Friday quota — and explained: "I concentrated on lining myself up square to the hole. I've been standing too open or at least thinking I was and pushing putts and it's left me very negative and in a bad frame of mind going to the next tournament."

"The Tour performance records show I was 13th in the putting rankings when I won the PGA Championship and 49th the week I tied in the Irish Open and lost a play-off. It's proof positive I have not been getting the ball into the hole and that's been my problem."

Holing out proved no problem for Russell Claydon, the former English amateur champion and Walker Cup international with the roly-poly 17-stone frame and run-down golf swing.

The 32-year-old was run-up to Greg Norman in the 1989 Australian Masters while still an amateur and looked to be heading for great things. It has not happened but yesterday he ended a run of six second-placed finishes on the European Tour with a one-stroke victory over Scott's Jamie Spence.

Cambridge's Claydon birdied four times in the space of seven holes coming home in 32 for a 68 and 18 under-par 270 to finish one ahead for a top prize of \$141,600.

Spence, who shot 60 when winning the European Masters in 1992, birdied three of the last four holes for a 66 to win \$204,440.

The German Thomas Gele (69) was third on 272 as Bernhard Langer, who dropped two strokes on the home straight, and the Dane Thomas Bjorn had to settle for 71.

Claydon, who single putted eight of the last 11 holes and had 27 putts in all, refused to be disappointed at winning the week before Ryder Cup qualifying begins. "It would be churlish to be picky about weeks after waiting so long for a victory."



Pulling his weight... England's Russell Claydon celebrates his first European Tour victory yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL SEVERN

## Absolutely Super? Surely not

## SCREEN BREAK

Martin Keeler

FOR SOME reason my satellite system at home has stopped receiving Sky Sports 2 and 3, which means I have been deprived of my normal diet of tractor racing live from Idaho, WWF wrestling, and Mike Sakamoto's Fishing Tales, not to mention my favourite commercial in which Christine Brinkley and Chuck Norris demonstrate one of those home fitness devices that make the abso-lute before your cheque has cleared.

There was more fun in watching the convulsions at St James' Park

What is exciting about this device is that it not only enables you to look like Christie or Chuck, depending on preference, it also apparently liberates you from the necessity of ever pronouncing the letter "t" again. It works "bi-laterally," agrees Christie, "quid-laterally," agrees Chuck, before moving on to demonstrate the Dodal Gyn's unilateral work on something called the abs. Anyway, in the absence of Christie, whose dazzling white teeth are actually the most unfeasible feature of her extraordinary body, I have been pretty well stuck with cricket and football, and what a drab old week it has been. About the most exciting action has been in the Newcastle share price.

There was certainly more fun in watching the convulsions at St James' Park on Friday evening's news than there was in the European Super Cup that followed.

The word "Super" affixed to a sporting competition, as in Super League, superlatives and so on, is usually a sign of desperation, an expression of forlorn hope rather than a valid description of what is on offer, but rarely has it been less accurately applied than to Chelsea versus Real Madrid live from one of Monte Carlo's top multi-story casinos. It was a preview of the putative European Super League, I intend to withdraw to my own private Idaho.

Deonand Lyam, to his credit, made no more perfunctory attempts to talk up the occasion. "There's bags of talent on display tonight," he suggested half-heartedly, before tackling the more important business of Kenny Dalglish's "resignation".

Kenny on Tuesday and he seemed quite relaxed, almost buoyant," said Alan Hansen. David O'Leary confirmed that Dalglish seemed mysteriously unaware that he had just resigned. "I played golf with him this summer and he was looking forward to the new season," said O'Leary. Problem solved, then Dalglish was "resigned" because he spent too much time on the golf course.

Unfortunately, the highly entertaining speculation about Dalglish and Ruud Gullit was interrupted so we could watch some of Europe's most highly paid athletes doing the minimum amount of work necessary to pick up their weekly envelopes.

Frank Leboeuf rather gave the game away in the pre-match interview when Ray Stubbs asked him how difficult it would be to motivate himself for the match. "I am a professional footballer. They pay me," replied Leboeuf with a Gallic shrug.

Even John Motson had to own up to the public's lean of a hundred and forty-five countries will watch these pictures, 22 of them live, but there are only about five thousand supporters actually in the ground, so the game money certainly won't break the bank at Monte Carlo. Moty admitted.

Des and his guests tried their hardest to whip up interest, without ever resorting to the Alan Brazil method of screaming in our faces, until we sign a confession admitting that Watford versus Grimsby is the most important football match in the entire history of the world.

O'Leary, however, was almost beside himself in his artist's impression of a real tackle went in in the early stages of the Super Cup. "There are one or two tackles here that suggest we're going to have a decent game," he said. That's right. Some way behind the Champions League, but just ahead of the Schleswig-Holstein Challenge Shield.

Finally, I believe in a volume column three ago I took a sock filled with horse manure and set about one of Dominik Diamond's late night television shows. To reduce the balance, I should like to shower rose petals on his Saturday Sportsweek, which is very funny. Gullit has replaced Dalglish, he suggested this week, so that the Newcastle players can be managed by someone whose English they can understand.

## Weekend results

RUGBY UNION	
WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Cardiff	45 Aberystwyth
Swansea	38 Pontypridd
Neath	38 Newport

First Division	15 Crusaders
Cardiff	20 Swansea
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# Ripon

CHAS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.25	Chas Hawkins
2.30	Chas Hawkins
4.00	Chas Hawkins
4.30	Chas Hawkins
5.05	Chas Hawkins

Right-handed, rather sharp course of 1m5f with 50f run-in. Straight 6f. Breeze: Good to firm. 4. Donates blinkers. Breeze: High test in 1m5f. In 1m5f, low 1m and 1m2f. Seven days winners: None. Blundered first time: 5.05 Piccadilly. Viewed: 4.00 Marston Prize, 4.30 Ribblesdale. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

2.25 STRAY FM BROADBROW SELLING STAKES 2YO	SKY
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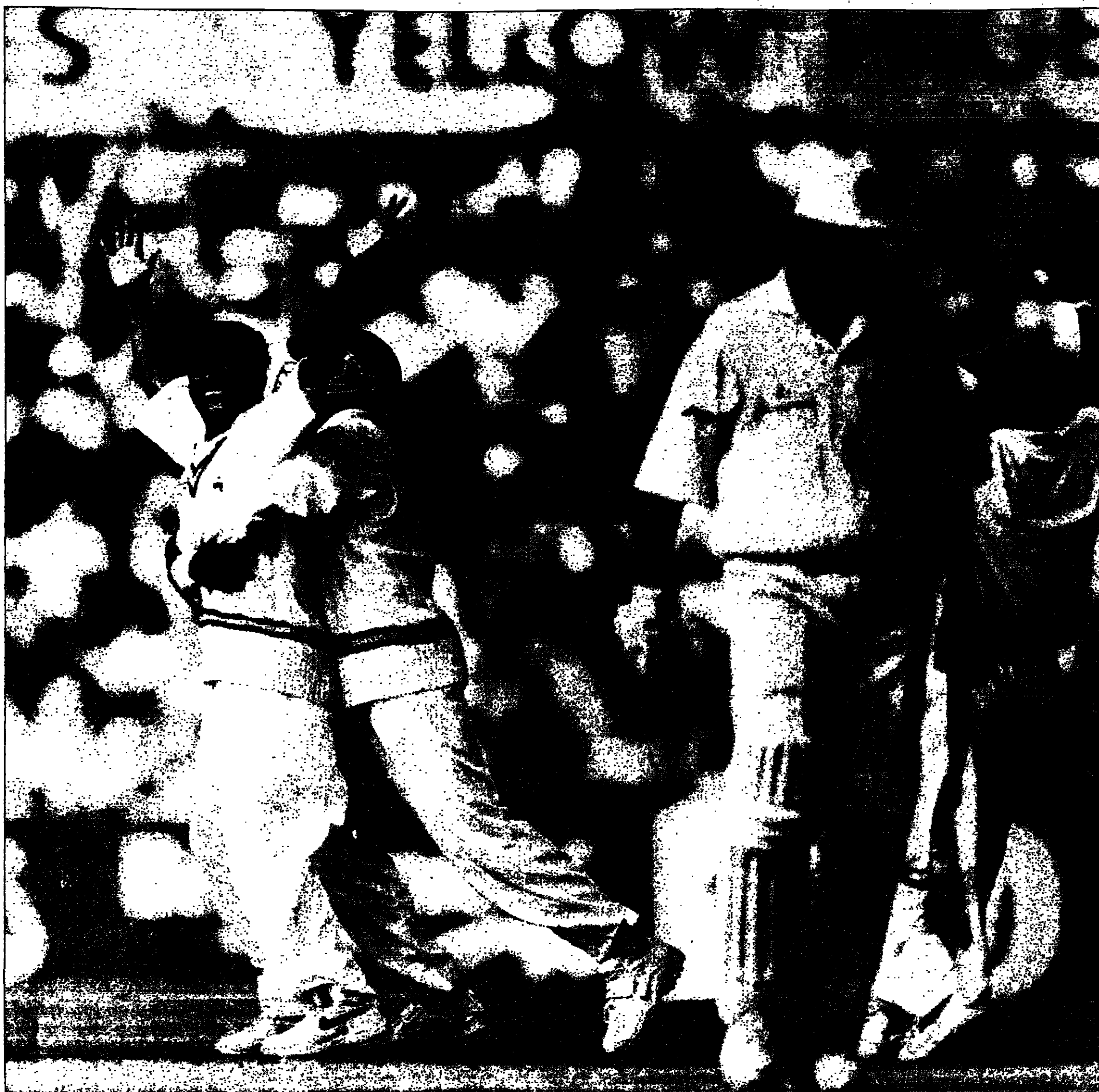
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3.30 RIFON CHAMPION TWO-YEAR-OLD	SKY
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## England v Sri Lanka



Thanks for the memory... Muthiah Muralitharan rejoices as England's first-innings century maker Graeme Hick heads for the pavilion after being trapped lbw second ball

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENNINGS

Cornhill Test, fourth day

## Muralitharan tightens the screws

Mike Selvey marvels at the off-spinner undermining England's second innings

**T**HIS is looking suspiciously like Sri Lanka's payback. Largely ignored by England since they attained full Test status 17 years ago, and patronised when they have not been ignored, the world champions have played their way to a position of dominance at The Oval England will need to work hard to escape.

From Friday evening, when Sanath Jayasuriya began his merciless double-century dissection of the England bowling, torment has been heaped upon torment. The screw turned ever tighter.

First it was the Sri Lankan batting, which racked up a first-innings lead of 146, and then, in the final session yesterday, by the genius of Muthiah Muralitharan, whose off-

spinners floated down like parachute bombs only to explode on impact. Chatterings about the legality of his action are sounding like sour grapes.

By the close England had reached 54 for two, still 92 short of saving an innings defeat, with Steve James and Alec Stewart were clinging on grimly.

In successive overs from Muralitharan Mark Butcher, who gamely tried to take him on, was seduced down the pitch to be stumped as easy as flying a kite on Galle Face Green, and two balls later Graeme Hick was lbw on the back foot without scoring, his first-innings century already a thing of distant memory.

James, here because of Mike Atherton's injured back and trying all he knew to fill the usual England anchorman's

shoes, made it through all 42 overs so far in reaching 20. But it was tenacity rather than technique that helped him survive Muralitharan.

At the other end Stewart, who ended on 15, was blocking and kicking and — the bitter bit — increasingly becoming irritated by Ramesh Kaluwitharana behind the stumps.

When two, in Jayasuriya's first over of left-arm spin, Stewart survived a confident appeal for a bat-pad catch to silly mid-off. In Muralitharan's next over, Kaluwitharana's enthusiastic lbw appeal led to words being exchanged and the intervention of umpire David Shepherd.

On such a pitch — no pace and with all the growth potential of a Muscovite's investment bond — Sri Lanka can dominate anyone. Their bats-

men, Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva in particular, have scored at such a rate here that their 591 took 10 balls fewer than England's 445.

That lent them time, but the real difference between the sides is Muralitharan. In such conditions there are few spinners in the world who can wreak the same sort of havoc. England certainly do not have one.

Ian Salisbury, having sought a Test wicket for almost 60 overs this summer, managed to sign off with a success yesterday, but it was a belated one to end the Sri Lankan innings. If the pitches turn this winter in Australia, and Shane Warne's shoulder is recovered, the prospects are bleak indeed. Muralitharan came on at

the Vauxhall End to bowl the innings' ninth over, the last before tea, and produced a maiden. Apart from a change of ends he did not relinquish the ball until the day was done, and he seems destined not to do so until the game is won. He is Arjuna Ranatunga's only card.

Thirteen overs of flight and loop and spin like a buzzsaw brought him two wickets for 12 runs from that end. Not a delivery was played with certainty. When he switched to

the Pavilion end he bowled a further five overs for just four runs but somehow looked less dangerous. At some stage the England batsmen will have to take the attack to him, however perilous that may seem. Allow him to bowl and there will be only one winner.

It took England, until shortly after three o'clock to finish the Sri Lankan innings. They had begun the day on 446 for three, a run ahead of England. They had been placed in that position

by a remarkable Saturday that produced 367 exhilarating runs, including a third wicket stand of 243 between Jayasuriya and De Silva.

De Silva, 125 overnight (his 17th Test century) was to reach 152 before he was seventh out, driving loosely at Ben Hollis to be caught at the wicket after almost eight hours' batting.

Given that just two wickets had fallen on Saturday it completed a good morning for England.

## Lloyd casts doubt on spinner

David Hopps hears England's coach reopen the chucking debate

**M**UTHIAH Muralitharan continues to charm every dispassionate observer, but England will forever murmur privately that he is a chucker. Cleared of throwing by the International Cricket Council after medical and video evidence, the Sri Lankan spinner has long been found innocent, but still must endure insinuations that he is guilty.

To the imaginative mind, Muralitharan is a wonderfully freakish talent, born with a locked elbow and a manoeuvrable wrist which combine to make him one of the most astounding off-spinners in Test history. But to the professional mind, especially the professional mind threatened by defeat, imagination is soon destroyed by resentment.

"I have my opinions and I have made them known to the authorities," said England's coach David Lloyd last night. "They have a spinner with an unorthodox action, we have a spinner with an orthodox action. Ian Salisbury was spinning it as much as he could. Muralitharan spins it more all over the world. He is the only one who has benefited from this success."

Lloyd presented the Oval Test as a contest between an "unorthodox" spinner, Muralitharan, and an "orthodox" one, Ian Salisbury. Why stop there? It would have been equally valid to accept that it is a contest between a great spinner and a mediocre one.

When Muralitharan's creative wrist was compared yesterday with the gentle leg-spin of Salisbury, which was plucked down with the anxiety of a young dinner-party hostess aware that the starter was not up to scratch, it was possible to make the rare observation that the off-spinner was actually more of a wrist-spinner than the wrist-spinner.

Forget the hot-housing winters with Australian leg-spin coaches. In the interests of English cricket, perhaps all Salisbury needs is a blacksmith able to weld his elbow at 180 degrees.

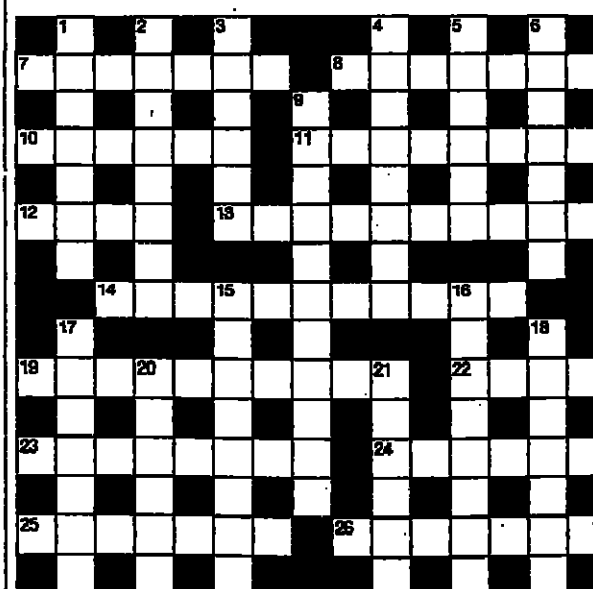
When the England selectors finalise this winter's Ashes party today, to include Salisbury would be tantamount to an act of cruelty. No matter how much the stump microphone picks up Alec Stewart bawling "pressure's building, Solly" or "great bowling, Solly," in a Test match, in his heart of hearts, the bowler will never quite believe it. No amount of gum chewing will change that.

Stewart's determination not to allow a one-off Sri Lankan victory to dim an otherwise triumphant Test summer is considerable, and it led to testy exchange, while batting, with Sri Lanka's close fielders, which led to the umpire David Shepherd telling all parties to calm down.

What Elmo makes of England tomorrow should be interesting.

## Guardian Crossword No 21,367

Set by Rufus



## Across

- 7 Enjoy embracing one's rescuer (7)  
8 In grave trouble, certainly in a pickle (7)  
10 Note to change flag (6)  
11 A quality that's uncommon (8)  
12 Not a cheap term of affection (4)  
13 Minor example of proportional representation (5,5)

- 14 Sheet anchor (5-6)  
19 No doubt backers at cockfighting had an eye to it (4,6)  
22 Bails a fielder hasn't caught (4)  
23 Sheridan's captain bales out when in trouble (8)  
24 In part of a hospital — mental, perhaps (6)  
25 Scuttle off for food (7)

**WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE #1,200**  
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Gayle Rose of Woolwich, London, SE18, Myra Stokes of Clifton, Bristol, Mike James of Sheffield, James Bentley of Darwen, Lancashire, and N. J. Burton of Birmingham.  
Please allow 28 days for delivery.

**13** Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 330 330. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by AT5.

**20** Small vessel can be manufactured in wood (7)

## Down

- 1 Controlled order of agenda after start of meeting (7)  
2 Station carriage (8)  
3 Protects a drug's recipe (6)  
4 Edited diaries about Liberal ex-PM (6)  
5 Be inclined to shelter in the garden perhaps (4-2)  
6 Fresh flowers? (7)  
9 One using his loaf to support the family (11)  
15 Unwanted gas pipes (8)  
16 Robin to indicate complicity in trick (6)  
17 Hide the port (7)  
18 Caterer gets involved in a domestic row (7)  
20 Mug one may put one's teeth into? (6)

**Solution tomorrow**  
**NEWSPAPER SUPPORT RECYCLING**  
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the new newspaper in the first half of 1997  
APPREY

## Jackson back on track for USA

Duncan Mackay in Glasgow

**C**OLIN JACKSON showed he really is back when he beat the world Olympic champion Allen Johnson in the 110 metres hurdles for the first time this season here last night.

The Welshman, representing Britain in the match against the United States, pulled off one of the most satisfying victories of his career, tipping his American rival on the line to clock 13.45sec.

Before the race Jackson was given a standing ovation by the 6,000 capacity crowd in the tiny Scotstoun stadium, in recognition of winning his third consecutive title in Budapest earlier this month.

All of Britain's European Championship heroes were given rousing welcomes. Few were cheered more than Iwan Thomas, the 400m winner.

The Southampton runner, though lacking sharpness after a week of celebrations, still comfortably claimed the scrappy title of world record holder Butch Reynolds but had to battle hard to hold off the United States' Milton Campbell to win in 45.13sec.

Allison Curbishley gave the passionate crowd an early opportunity to wave their lion rampant flags when she set the Scottish record in the 400m, the first track event of the evening. The Anglo-Scott raced to victory in 50.73sec, the fourth time she has broken the record this season, as she held off her team-mate Katharine Merry,

running the event for only the third time in her life.

Merry had only decided to tackle the distance again after helping Britain to a bronze medal in the 4x400 metres relay in Budapest last Sunday.

And the 22-year-old Birkenhead athlete, who has made such tremendous strides under the coaching of Linford Christie this year, served notice she is going to be a real talent over the distance.

Her time of 51.02sec took more than half a second off her previous best and knocked Sally Gunnell down a place in the United Kingdom all-time list. Merry plans to move up to the one-lap distance next season and she and Curbishley seem set to share the kind of rivalry which has driven Thomas and Mark

Richardson to such heights.

Few of Britain's European heroes enjoyed the homecoming as much as Doug Turner, the 200m silver medallist. With the champion Doug relay in Budapest last Sunday, Walker forced to watch from the sidelines, after undergoing a knee operation last Thursday, the Welshman raced to victory in 20.63sec over a top-quality field which included the world indoor champion Kevin Little.

Jonathan Edwards is another European champion who is also set to go under the surgeon's knife to finally cure the ankle problem which has plagued him all summer. It will rule him out of the World Cup final and the Commonwealth Games. "I could have gone but I would have been jumping injured," he said.

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